



# Equality Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 3

### E+W+S

An Act to make provision for the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights; to dissolve the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Disability Rights Commission; to make provision about discrimination on grounds of religion or belief; to enable provision to be made about discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation; to impose duties relating to sex discrimination on persons performing public functions; to amend the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and for connected purposes. [16th February 2006]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** Act: transfer of functions (with exceptions) (12.10.2007) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Equality\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2914\)](#), [art. 3\(2\)\(f\)](#)

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## PART 1 **E+W+S**

### THE COMMISSION FOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

#### *The Commission*

#### 1 **Establishment** **E+W+S**

There shall be a body corporate known as the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

#### 2 **Constitution, &c.** **E+W+S**

Schedule 1 (constitution of the Commission, proceedings, money, &c.) shall have effect.

#### 3 **General duty** **E+W+S**

The Commission shall exercise its functions under this Part with a view to encouraging and supporting the development of a society in which—

- (a) people's ability to achieve their potential is not limited by prejudice or discrimination,
- (b) there is respect for and protection of each individual's human rights,
- (c) there is respect for the dignity and worth of each individual,
- (d) each individual has an equal opportunity to participate in society, and
- (e) there is mutual respect between groups based on understanding and valuing of diversity and on shared respect for equality and human rights.

#### 4 **Strategic plan** **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission shall prepare a plan showing—
  - (a) activities or classes of activity to be undertaken by the Commission in pursuance of its functions under this Act,
  - (b) an expected timetable for each activity or class, and
  - (c) priorities for different activities or classes, or principles to be applied in determining priorities.
- (2) The Commission shall review the plan—
  - (a) at least once during the period of three years beginning with its completion,
  - (b) at least once during each period of three years beginning with the completion of a review, and
  - (c) at such other times as the Commission thinks appropriate.
- (3) If the Commission thinks it appropriate as a result of a review, the Commission shall revise the plan.
- (4) The Commission shall send the plan and each revision to the Secretary of State, who shall lay a copy before Parliament.

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(5) The Commission shall publish the plan and each revision.

## 5 Strategic plan: consultation **E+W+S**

Before preparing or reviewing a plan in accordance with section 4 the Commission shall—

- (a) consult such persons having knowledge or experience relevant to the Commission's functions as the Commission thinks appropriate,
- (b) consult such other persons as the Commission thinks appropriate,
- (c) issue a general invitation to make representations, in a manner likely in the Commission's opinion to bring the invitation to the attention of as large a class of persons who may wish to make representations as is reasonably practicable, and
- (d) take account of any representations made.

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

## 6 Disclosure **E+W+S**

- (1) A person who is or was a Commissioner, an Investigating Commissioner, an employee of the Commission or a member of a committee established by the Commission commits an offence if he discloses information to which this section applies unless subsection (3) authorises the disclosure.
- (2) This section applies to information acquired by the Commission—
  - (a) by way of representations made in relation to, or otherwise in the course of, an inquiry under section 16,
  - (b) by way of representations made in relation to, or otherwise in the course of, an investigation under section 20,
  - (c) by way of representations made in relation to, or otherwise in the course of, an assessment under section 31,
  - (d) by way of representations made in relation to, or otherwise in connection with, a notice under section 32, or
  - (e) from a person with whom the Commission enters into, or considers entering into, an agreement under section 23.
- (3) This subsection authorises a disclosure made—
  - (a) for the purpose of the exercise of a function of the Commission under any of sections 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 31 and 32,
  - (b) in a report of an inquiry, investigation or assessment published by the Commission,
  - (c) in pursuance of an order of a court or tribunal,
  - (d) with the consent of each person to whom the disclosed information relates,
  - (e) in a manner that ensures that no person to whom the disclosed information relates can be identified,
  - (f) for the purpose of civil or criminal proceedings to which the Commission is party, or
  - (g) if the information was acquired by the Commission more than 70 years before the date of the disclosure.

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- (4) But subsection (3) does not authorise, nor may the Commission make, a disclosure of information provided by or relating to an intelligence service unless the service has authorised the disclosure.
- (5) In subsection (4) “intelligence service” means—
- (a) the Security Service,
  - (b) the Secret Intelligence Service, and
  - (c) the Government Communications Headquarters.
- (6) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

**7 Scotland: human rights** E+W+S

- (1) The Commission shall not take human rights action in relation to a matter if the Scottish Parliament has legislative competence to enable a person to take action of that kind in relation to that matter.
- (2) In subsection (1) “human rights action” means action taken—
- (a) in accordance with section 9(1), and
  - (b) under, by virtue of or in pursuance of—
    - (i) section 11(1) in so far as it relates to the Human Rights Act 1998 (c. 42),
    - (ii) section 11(2)(c) or (d),
    - (iii) section 12,
    - (iv) section 13,
    - (v) section 16,
    - (vi) section 17, or
    - (vii) section 30.
- (3) Despite section 9(4), the Commission shall not, in the course of fulfilling a duty under section 8 or 10, consider the question whether a person's human rights have been contravened if the Scottish Parliament has legislative competence to enable a person to consider that question.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (3) shall not prevent the Commission from taking action with the consent (whether general or specific) of a person if—
- (a) the person is established by Act of the Scottish Parliament, and
  - (b) the person's principal duties relate to human rights and are similar to any of the Commission's duties under section 9.
- (5) Subsections (1) and (3) shall not prevent the Commission from relying on section 13(1)(f) so as to act jointly or cooperate (but not assist) for a purpose relating to human rights and connected with Scotland.

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VALID FROM 01/10/2007

## Duties

### 8 Equality and diversity **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission shall, by exercising the powers conferred by this Part—
  - (a) promote understanding of the importance of equality and diversity,
  - (b) encourage good practice in relation to equality and diversity,
  - (c) promote equality of opportunity,
  - (d) promote awareness and understanding of rights under the equality enactments,
  - (e) enforce the equality enactments,
  - (f) work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination, and
  - (g) work towards the elimination of unlawful harassment.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
  - “diversity” means the fact that individuals are different,
  - “equality” means equality between individuals, and
  - “unlawful” is to be construed in accordance with section 34.
- (3) In promoting equality of opportunity between disabled persons and others, the Commission may, in particular, promote the favourable treatment of disabled persons.
- (4) In this Part “disabled person” means a person who—
  - (a) is a disabled person within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50), or
  - (b) has been a disabled person within that meaning (whether or not at a time when that Act had effect).

### 9 Human rights **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission shall, by exercising the powers conferred by this Part—
  - (a) promote understanding of the importance of human rights,
  - (b) encourage good practice in relation to human rights,
  - (c) promote awareness, understanding and protection of human rights, and
  - (d) encourage public authorities to comply with section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (c. 42) (compliance with Convention rights).
- (2) In this Part “human rights” means—
  - (a) the Convention rights within the meaning given by section 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998, and
  - (b) other human rights.
- (3) In determining what action to take in pursuance of this section the Commission shall have particular regard to the importance of exercising the powers conferred by this Part in relation to the Convention rights.

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- (4) In fulfilling a duty under section 8 or 10 the Commission shall take account of any relevant human rights.
- (5) A reference in this Part (including this section) to human rights does not exclude any matter by reason only of its being a matter to which section 8 or 10 relates.

## 10 Groups **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission shall, by exercising the powers conferred by this Part—
  - (a) promote understanding of the importance of good relations—
    - (i) between members of different groups, and
    - (ii) between members of groups and others,
  - (b) encourage good practice in relation to relations—
    - (i) between members of different groups, and
    - (ii) between members of groups and others,
  - (c) work towards the elimination of prejudice against, hatred of and hostility towards members of groups, and
  - (d) work towards enabling members of groups to participate in society.
- (2) In this Part “group” means a group or class of persons who share a common attribute in respect of any of the following matters—
  - (a) age,
  - (b) disability,
  - (c) gender,
  - (d) proposed, commenced or completed reassignment of gender (within the meaning given by section 82(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65)),
  - (e) race,
  - (f) religion or belief, and
  - (g) sexual orientation.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part a reference to a group (as defined in subsection (2)) includes a reference to a smaller group or smaller class, within a group, of persons who share a common attribute (in addition to the attribute by reference to which the group is defined) in respect of any of the matters specified in subsection (2)(a) to (g).
- (4) In determining what action to take in pursuance of this section the Commission shall have particular regard to the importance of exercising the powers conferred by this Part in relation to groups defined by reference to race, religion or belief.
- (5) The Commission may, in taking action in pursuance of subsection (1) in respect of groups defined by reference to disability and others, promote or encourage the favourable treatment of disabled persons.
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order amend the list in subsection (2) so as to—
  - (a) add an entry, or
  - (b) vary an entry.
- (7) This section is without prejudice to the generality of section 8.

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## 11 Monitoring the law **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission shall monitor the effectiveness of the equality and human rights enactments.
- (2) The Commission may—
  - (a) advise central government about the effectiveness of any of the equality and human rights enactments;
  - (b) recommend to central government the amendment, repeal, consolidation (with or without amendments) or replication (with or without amendments) of any of the equality and human rights enactments;
  - (c) advise central or devolved government about the effect of an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament);
  - (d) advise central or devolved government about the likely effect of a proposed change of law.
- (3) In this section—
  - (a) “central government” means Her Majesty's Government,
  - (b) “devolved government” means—
    - (i) the Scottish Ministers, and
    - (ii) the National Assembly for Wales, and
  - (c) a reference to the equality enactments shall be treated as including a reference to any provision of this Act.

## 12 Monitoring progress **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission shall from time to time identify—
  - (a) changes in society that have occurred or are expected to occur and are relevant to the aim specified in section 3,
  - (b) results at which to aim for the purpose of encouraging and supporting the development of the society described in section 3 (“outcomes”), and
  - (c) factors by reference to which progress towards those results may be measured (“indicators”).
- (2) In identifying outcomes and indicators the Commission shall—
  - (a) consult such persons having knowledge or experience relevant to the Commission's functions as the Commission thinks appropriate,
  - (b) consult such other persons as the Commission thinks appropriate,
  - (c) issue a general invitation to make representations, in a manner likely in the Commission's opinion to bring the invitation to the attention of as large a class of persons who may wish to make representations as is reasonably practicable, and
  - (d) take account of any representations made.
- (3) The Commission shall from time to time monitor progress towards each identified outcome by reference to any relevant identified indicator.
- (4) The Commission shall publish a report on progress towards the identified outcomes by reference to the identified indicators—
  - (a) within the period of three years beginning with the date on which this section comes into force, and

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- (b) within each period of three years beginning with the date on which a report is published under this subsection.
- (5) The Commission shall send each report to the Secretary of State, who shall lay a copy before Parliament.

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

### *General powers*

#### 13 Information, advice, &c. **E+W+S**

- (1) In pursuance of its duties under sections 8 to 10 the Commission may—
- (a) publish or otherwise disseminate ideas or information;
  - (b) undertake research;
  - (c) provide education or training;
  - (d) give advice or guidance (whether about the effect or operation of an enactment or otherwise);
  - (e) arrange for a person to do anything within paragraphs (a) to (d);
  - (f) act jointly with, co-operate with or assist a person doing anything within paragraphs (a) to (d).
- (2) The reference to giving advice in subsection (1)(d) does not include a reference to preparing, or assisting in the preparation of, a document to be used for the purpose of legal proceedings.

#### 14 Codes of practice **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may issue a code of practice in connection with a matter addressed by any of the following—
- (a) the Equal Pay Act 1970 (c. 41),
  - (b) Parts 2 to 4 and section 76A of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) or an order under section 76B or 76C of that Act,
  - (c) Parts 2 to 4 and section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74),
  - (d) Parts 2 to 4 and 5A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) except for sections 28D and 28E (accessibility in schools),
  - (e) Part 2 of this Act,
  - (f) regulations under Part 3 of this Act,
  - (g) Parts 2 and 3 of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1661),<sup>F1</sup> ...
  - (h) Parts 2 and 3 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660).<sup>F2</sup> and
  - (i) Parts 2 and 3 of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006.]
- <sup>F2</sup>(2) A code of practice under subsection (1) shall contain provision designed—
- (a) to ensure or facilitate compliance with a provision or enactment listed in subsection (1), or
  - (b) to promote equality of opportunity.



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- (3) The Commission may issue a code of practice giving practical guidance to landlords and tenants in England or Wales about—
  - (a) circumstances in which a tenant requires the consent of his landlord to make a relevant improvement, within the meaning of section 49G(7) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (improvements), to a dwelling house,
  - (b) reasonableness in relation to that consent, and
  - (c) the application in relation to relevant improvements (within that meaning) to dwelling houses of—
    - (i) section 19(2) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1927 (c. 36) (consent to improvements),
    - (ii) sections 81 to 85 of the Housing Act 1980 (c. 51) (tenant's improvements),
    - (iii) sections 97 to 99 of the Housing Act 1985 (c. 68) (tenant's improvements), and
    - (iv) section 49G of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
- (4) The Commission may issue a code of practice giving practical guidance to landlords and tenants of houses (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland about—
  - (a) circumstances in which the tenant requires the consent of the landlord to carry out work in relation to the house for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence,
  - (b) circumstances in which it is unreasonable to withhold that consent,
  - (c) circumstances in which any condition imposed on the granting of that consent is unreasonable, and
  - (d) the application in relation to such work of—
    - (i) sections 28 to 31 and 34(6) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10), and
    - (ii) sections 52, 53 and 64(6) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01).
- (5) The Commission shall comply with a direction of the Secretary of State to issue a code under this section in connection with a specified matter if—
  - (a) the matter is not listed in subsection (1), but
  - (b) the Secretary of State expects to add it by order under section 15(6).
- (6) Before issuing a code under this section the Commission shall—
  - (a) publish proposals, and
  - (b) consult such persons as it thinks appropriate.
- (7) Before issuing a code under this section the Commission shall submit a draft to the Secretary of State, who shall—
  - (a) if he approves the draft—
    - (i) notify the Commission, and
    - (ii) lay a copy before Parliament, or
  - (b) otherwise, give the Commission written reasons why he does not approve the draft.

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- (8) Where a draft is laid before Parliament under subsection (7)(a)(ii), if neither House passes a resolution disapproving the draft within 40 days—
- (a) the Commission may issue the code in the form of the draft, and
  - (b) it shall come into force in accordance with provision made by the Secretary of State by order.
- (9) If, or in so far as, a code relates to a duty imposed by or under section 76A, 76B or 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65), section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) or section 49A or 49D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (public authorities: general anti-discrimination duties) the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers and the National Assembly for Wales before—
- (a) approving a draft under subsection (7)(a) above, or
  - (b) making an order under subsection (8)(b) above.
- (10) In relation to a code of practice under subsection (4), the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers before—
- (a) approving a draft under subsection (7)(a) above, or
  - (b) making an order under subsection (8)(b) above.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 14(1)(g) omitted (1.10.2006) by virtue of [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1031\)](#), reg. 49(1), [Sch. 8 para. 38\(2\)](#) (with regs. 44-46)
- F2** [S. 14\(1\)\(i\)](#) and preceding word inserted (1.10.2006) by [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1031\)](#), reg. 49(1), [Sch. 8 para. 38\(3\)](#) (with regs. 44-46)

## 14 Codes of practice **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may issue a code of practice in connection with a matter addressed by any of the following—
- (a) the Equal Pay Act 1970 (c. 41),
  - (b) Parts 2 to 4 and section 76A of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) or an order under section 76B or 76C of that Act,
  - (c) Parts 2 to 4 and section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74),
  - (d) Parts 2 to 4 and 5A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) except for sections 28D and 28E (accessibility in schools),
  - (e) Part 2 of this Act,
  - (f) regulations under Part 3 of this Act,
  - (g) Parts 2 and 3 of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1661), and
  - (h) Parts 2 and 3 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660).
- (2) A code of practice under subsection (1) shall contain provision designed—
- (a) to ensure or facilitate compliance with a provision or enactment listed in subsection (1), or
  - (b) to promote equality of opportunity.
- (3) The Commission may issue a code of practice giving practical guidance to landlords and tenants in England or Wales about—

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- (a) circumstances in which a tenant requires the consent of his landlord to make a relevant improvement, within the meaning of section 49G(7) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (improvements), to a dwelling house,
  - (b) reasonableness in relation to that consent, and
  - (c) the application in relation to relevant improvements (within that meaning) to dwelling houses of—
    - (i) section 19(2) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1927 (c. 36) (consent to improvements),
    - (ii) sections 81 to 85 of the Housing Act 1980 (c. 51) (tenant's improvements),
    - (iii) sections 97 to 99 of the Housing Act 1985 (c. 68) (tenant's improvements), and
    - (iv) section 49G of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
- (4) The Commission may issue a code of practice giving practical guidance to landlords and tenants of houses (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland about—
- (a) circumstances in which the tenant requires the consent of the landlord to carry out work in relation to the house for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence,
  - (b) circumstances in which it is unreasonable to withhold that consent,
  - (c) circumstances in which any condition imposed on the granting of that consent is unreasonable, and
  - (d) the application in relation to such work of—
    - (i) sections 28 to 31 and 34(6) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10), and
    - (ii) sections 52, 53 and 64(6) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01).
- (5) The Commission shall comply with a direction of the Secretary of State to issue a code under this section in connection with a specified matter if—
- (a) the matter is not listed in subsection (1), but
  - (b) the Secretary of State expects to add it by order under section 15(6).
- (6) Before issuing a code under this section the Commission shall—
- (a) publish proposals, and
  - (b) consult such persons as it thinks appropriate.
- (7) Before issuing a code under this section the Commission shall submit a draft to the Secretary of State, who shall—
- (a) if he approves the draft—
    - (i) notify the Commission, and
    - (ii) lay a copy before Parliament, or
  - (b) otherwise, give the Commission written reasons why he does not approve the draft.
- (8) Where a draft is laid before Parliament under subsection (7)(a)(ii), if neither House passes a resolution disapproving the draft within 40 days—

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- (a) the Commission may issue the code in the form of the draft, and
  - (b) it shall come into force in accordance with provision made by the Secretary of State by order.
- (9) If, or in so far as, a code relates to a duty imposed by or under section 76A, 76B or 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65), section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) or section 49A or 49D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (public authorities: general anti-discrimination duties) the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers and the National Assembly for Wales before—
- (a) approving a draft under subsection (7)(a) above, or
  - (b) making an order under subsection (8)(b) above.
- (10) In relation to a code of practice under subsection (4), the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers before—
- (a) approving a draft under subsection (7)(a) above, or
  - (b) making an order under subsection (8)(b) above.

## 15 Codes of practice: supplemental **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may revise a code issued under section 14; and a reference in this section or in that section to the issue of a code shall be treated as including a reference to the revision of a code.
- (2) The 40 day period specified in section 14(8)—
- (a) shall begin with the date on which the draft is laid before both Houses (or, if laid before each House on a different date, with the later date), and
  - (b) shall be taken not to include a period during which—
    - (i) Parliament is prorogued or dissolved, or
    - (ii) both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.
- (3) A code issued under section 14 may be revoked by the Secretary of State, at the request of the Commission, by order.
- (4) A failure to comply with a provision of a code shall not of itself make a person liable to criminal or civil proceedings; but a code—
- (a) shall be admissible in evidence in criminal or civil proceedings, and
  - (b) shall be taken into account by a court or tribunal in any case in which it appears to the court or tribunal to be relevant.
- (5) Subsection (4)(b) does not apply in relation to a code issued under section 14(4).
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order amend section 14 so as to vary the range of matters that codes of practice under that section may address.

## 16 Inquiries **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may conduct an inquiry into a matter relating to any of the Commission's duties under sections 8, 9 and 10.
- (2) If in the course of an inquiry the Commission begins to suspect that a person may have committed an unlawful act—

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- (a) in continuing the inquiry the Commission shall, so far as possible, avoid further consideration of whether or not the person has committed an unlawful act,
  - (b) the Commission may commence an investigation into that question under section 20,
  - (c) the Commission may use information or evidence acquired in the course of the inquiry for the purpose of the investigation, and
  - (d) the Commission shall so far as possible ensure (whether by aborting or suspending the inquiry or otherwise) that any aspects of the inquiry which concern the person investigated, or may require his involvement, are not pursued while the investigation is in progress.
- (3) The report of an inquiry—
- (a) may not state (whether expressly or by necessary implication) that a specified or identifiable person has committed an unlawful act, and
  - (b) shall not otherwise refer to the activities of a specified or identifiable person unless the Commission thinks that the reference—
    - (i) will not harm the person, or
    - (ii) is necessary in order for the report adequately to reflect the results of the inquiry.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) shall not prevent an inquiry from considering or reporting a matter relating to human rights (whether or not a necessary implication arises in relation to the equality enactments).
- (5) Before settling a report of an inquiry which records findings which in the Commission's opinion are of an adverse nature and relate (whether expressly or by necessary implication) to a specified or identifiable person the Commission shall—
- (a) send a draft of the report to the person,
  - (b) specify a period of at least 28 days during which he may make written representations about the draft, and
  - (c) consider any representations made.
- (6) Schedule 2 makes supplemental provision about inquiries.

## 17 Grants **E+W+S**

- (1) In pursuance of any of its duties under sections 8 to 10 the Commission may make grants to another person.
- (2) A grant under subsection (1) may be made subject to conditions (which may, in particular, include conditions as to repayment).
- (3) A power under this Part to co-operate with or assist a person may not be exercised by the provision of financial assistance otherwise than in accordance with this section.

## 18 Human rights **E+W+S**

In pursuance of its duties under section 9 the Commission may (without prejudice to the generality of section 13) co-operate with persons interested in human rights within the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

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## 19 Groups **E+W+S**

- (1) In pursuance of its duties under section 10 the Commission may do anything specified in this section (without prejudice to the generality of section 13).
- (2) The Commission may make, co-operate with or assist in arrangements—
  - (a) for the monitoring of kinds of crime affecting certain groups;
  - (b) designed to prevent or reduce crime within or affecting certain groups;
  - (c) for activities (whether social, recreational, sporting, civic, educational or otherwise) designed to involve members of groups.

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

### *Enforcement powers*

## 20 Investigations **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may investigate whether or not a person—
  - (a) has committed an unlawful act,
  - (b) has complied with a requirement imposed by an unlawful act notice under section 21, or
  - (c) has complied with an undertaking given under section 23.
- (2) The Commission may conduct an investigation under subsection (1)(a) only if it suspects that the person concerned may have committed an unlawful act.
- (3) A suspicion for the purposes of subsection (2) may (but need not) be based on the results of, or a matter arising during the course of, an inquiry under section 16.
- (4) Before settling a report of an investigation recording a finding that a person has committed an unlawful act or has failed to comply with a requirement or undertaking the Commission shall—
  - (a) send a draft of the report to the person,
  - (b) specify a period of at least 28 days during which he may make written representations about the draft, and
  - (c) consider any representations made.
- (5) Schedule 2 makes supplemental provision about investigations.

## 21 Unlawful act notice **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may give a person a notice under this section (an “unlawful act notice”) if—
  - (a) he is or has been the subject of an investigation under section 20(1)(a), and
  - (b) the Commission is satisfied that he has committed an unlawful act.
- (2) A notice must specify—
  - (a) the unlawful act, and
  - (b) the provision of the equality enactments by virtue of which the act is unlawful.

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- (3) A notice must inform the recipient of the effect of—
  - (a) subsections (5) to (7),
  - (b) section 20(1)(b), and
  - (c) section 24(1).
- (4) A notice may—
  - (a) require the person to whom the notice is given to prepare an action plan for the purpose of avoiding repetition or continuation of the unlawful act;
  - (b) recommend action to be taken by the person for that purpose.
- (5) A person who is given a notice may, within the period of six weeks beginning with the day on which the notice is given, appeal to the appropriate court or tribunal on the grounds—
  - (a) that he has not committed the unlawful act specified in the notice, or
  - (b) that a requirement for the preparation of an action plan imposed under subsection (4)(a) is unreasonable.
- (6) On an appeal under subsection (5) the court or tribunal may—
  - (a) affirm a notice;
  - (b) annul a notice;
  - (c) vary a notice;
  - (d) affirm a requirement;
  - (e) annul a requirement;
  - (f) vary a requirement;
  - (g) make an order for costs or expenses.
- (7) In subsection (5) “the appropriate court or tribunal” means—
  - (a) an employment tribunal, if a claim in respect of the alleged unlawful act could be made to it, or
  - (b) a county court (in England and Wales) or the sheriff (in Scotland), if a claim in respect of the alleged unlawful act could be made to it or to him.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C2** [S. 21\(1\)\(a\)](#) applied (with modifications) (1.10.2007) by [The Equality Act 2006 \(Dissolution of Commissions and Consequential and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2602\)](#), [art. 5\(3\)](#)

**22 Action plans** **E+W+S**

- (1) This section applies where a person has been given a notice under section 21 which requires him (under section 21(4)(a)) to prepare an action plan.
- (2) The notice must specify a time by which the person must give the Commission a first draft plan.
- (3) After receiving a first draft plan from a person the Commission shall—
  - (a) approve it, or
  - (b) give the person a notice which—
    - (i) states that the draft is not adequate,

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- (ii) requires the person to give the Commission a revised draft by a specified time, and
- (iii) may make recommendations about the content of the revised draft.
- (4) Subsection (3) shall apply in relation to a revised draft plan as it applies in relation to a first draft plan.
- (5) An action plan comes into force—
  - (a) if the period of six weeks beginning with the date on which a first draft or revised draft is given to the Commission expires without the Commission—
    - (i) giving a notice under subsection (3)(b), or
    - (ii) applying for an order under subsection (6)(b), or
  - (b) upon a court's declining to make an order under subsection (6)(b) in relation to a revised draft of the plan.
- (6) The Commission may apply to a county court (in England and Wales) or to the sheriff (in Scotland)—
  - (a) for an order requiring a person to give the Commission a first draft plan by a time specified in the order,
  - (b) for an order requiring a person who has given the Commission a revised draft plan to prepare and give to the Commission a further revised draft plan—
    - (i) by a time specified in the order, and
    - (ii) in accordance with any directions about the plan's content specified in the order, or
  - (c) during the period of five years beginning with the date on which an action plan prepared by a person comes into force, for an order requiring the person—
    - (i) to act in accordance with the action plan, or
    - (ii) to take specified action for a similar purpose.
- (7) An action plan may be varied by agreement between the Commission and the person who prepared it.
- (8) Paragraphs 10 to 14 of Schedule 2 apply (but omitting references to oral evidence) in relation to consideration by the Commission of the adequacy of a draft action plan as they apply in relation to the conduct of an inquiry.
- (9) A person commits an offence if without reasonable excuse he fails to comply with an order under subsection (6); and a person guilty of an offence under this subsection shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

## 23 Agreements E+W+S

- (1) The Commission may enter into an agreement with a person under which—
  - (a) the person undertakes—
    - (i) not to commit an unlawful act of a specified kind, and
    - (ii) to take, or refrain from taking, other specified action (which may include the preparation of a plan for the purpose of avoiding an unlawful act), and



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- (b) the Commission undertakes not to proceed against the person under section 20 or 21 in respect of any unlawful act of the kind specified under paragraph (a)(i).
- (2) The Commission may enter into an agreement with a person under this section only if it thinks that the person has committed an unlawful act.
- (3) But a person shall not be taken to admit to the commission of an unlawful act by reason only of entering into an agreement under this section.
- (4) An agreement under this section—
  - (a) may be entered into whether or not the person is or has been the subject of an investigation under section 20,
  - (b) may include incidental or supplemental provision (which may include provision for termination in specified circumstances), and
  - (c) may be varied or terminated by agreement of the parties.
- (5) This section shall apply in relation to the breach of a duty specified in section 34(2) as it applies in relation to the commission of an unlawful act; and for that purpose the reference in subsection (1)(b) above to section 20 or 21 shall be taken as a reference to section 32.

#### **24 Applications to court** **E+W+S**

- (1) If the Commission thinks that a person is likely to commit an unlawful act, it may apply—
  - (a) in England and Wales, to a county court for an injunction restraining the person from committing the act, or
  - (b) in Scotland, to the sheriff for an interdict prohibiting the person from committing the act.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies if the Commission thinks that a party to an agreement under section 23 has failed to comply, or is likely not to comply, with an undertaking under the agreement.
- (3) The Commission may apply to a county court (in England and Wales) or to the sheriff (in Scotland) for an order requiring the person—
  - (a) to comply with his undertaking, and
  - (b) to take such other action as the court or the sheriff may specify.

#### **25 Application to restrain unlawful advertising, pressure, &c.** **E+W+S**

- (1) This section applies to an act which is unlawful under any of the following—
  - (a) sections 38 to 40 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (advertising; and instructions or pressure to discriminate),
  - (b) sections 29 to 31 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (advertising; and instructions or pressure to discriminate),
  - (c) sections 16B and 16C of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (advertising; and instructions or pressure to discriminate), and
  - (d) sections 54 and 55 below (religious discrimination: advertising; and instructions or pressure to discriminate).
- (2) Legal proceedings in relation to action to which this section applies—

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- (a) may be brought by the Commission in accordance with this section, and
  - (b) may not be brought by anyone else.
- (3) Where the Commission thinks that a person has done an act to which this section applies the Commission may—
- (a) present a complaint to an employment tribunal, where the act is alleged to be unlawful by reference to—
    - (i) Part 2 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975,
    - (ii) Part 2 of the Race Relations Act 1976,
    - (iii) Part 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995,
    - (iv) Part 3 of that Act in so far as it relates to employment services, or
    - (v) Part 2 of this Act, or
  - (b) in any other case, apply to a county court (in England and Wales) or the sheriff (in Scotland).
- (4) On a complaint or application under subsection (3) in respect of an alleged act to which this section applies, the tribunal, court or sheriff shall determine whether the allegation is correct.
- (5) The Commission may apply to a county court (in England and Wales) for an injunction restraining a person from doing an act to which this section applies where—
- (a) either—
    - (i) a tribunal or court has determined under subsection (4) that the person has done an act to which this section applies, or
    - (ii) the Commission thinks that the person has done an act to which this section applies, and
  - (b) the Commission thinks that if unrestrained the person is likely to do another act to which this section applies.
- (6) The Commission may apply to the sheriff (in Scotland) for an interdict prohibiting a person from doing an act to which this section applies where—
- (a) either—
    - (i) a tribunal or the sheriff has determined under subsection (4) that the person has done an act to which this section applies, or
    - (ii) the Commission thinks that the person has done an act to which this section applies, and
  - (b) the Commission thinks that without an interdict the person is likely to do another act to which this section applies.
- (7) Subsection (1) does not apply to an act which constitutes an offence.

**26 Section 25: supplemental** E+W+S

- (1) A complaint or application under section 25(3) may be presented or made only—
- (a) within the period of six months beginning with the date (or last date) on which the alleged unlawful act occurred, or
  - (b) with the permission of the tribunal, court or sheriff.

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- (2) A determination under section 25(4) shall not be relied upon by a county court or the sheriff in proceedings under section 25(5) or (6) while an appeal against the determination—
  - (a) is pending, or
  - (b) may be brought (disregarding the possibility of an appeal out of time with permission).
- (3) An application under section 25(5) or (6) may be made only—
  - (a) within the period of five years beginning with the date (or last date) on which the unlawful act referred to in that subsection occurred, or
  - (b) with the permission of the court or sheriff.

## 27 Conciliation **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes in respect of which proceedings have been or could be brought under or by virtue of—
  - (a) section 66 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (civil proceedings),
  - (b) section 57 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (civil proceedings),
  - (c) section 25, 28I, 28N, 28V [<sup>F3</sup>, 31ADA]<sup>F3</sup> or 31AE(1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (civil proceedings),
  - (d) section 66 below,
  - (e) a provision of regulations under Part 3 of this Act corresponding to section 66 below,
  - (f) regulation 31 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660) (civil proceedings),<sup>F4</sup> ...
  - (g) regulation 31 of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1661) (civil proceedings).<sup>F5</sup> or
  - (h) regulation 39 of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 (Jurisdiction of County and Sheriff Courts).]
- <sup>F5</sup>(2) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes about a landlord's reasonableness in relation to consent to the making of an improvement to a dwelling in England or Wales where the improvement would be likely to facilitate the enjoyment of the premises by the tenant or another lawful occupier having regard to a disability.
- (3) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes about whether—
  - (a) it is unreasonable for a landlord of a house (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland to withhold consent to the carrying out of work in relation to the house for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence, or
  - (b) any condition imposed by such a landlord on consenting to the carrying out of such work is unreasonable.
- (4) The Commission shall aim to exercise the powers in subsections (1) to (3) so as to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, conciliation services are available to parties who want them.

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- (5) Information communicated to a person providing conciliation services in accordance with arrangements under this section may not be adduced in legal proceedings without the consent of the person who communicated the information.
- (6) None of the following shall participate in the provision of conciliation services for which arrangements are made under this section—
  - (a) a Commissioner,
  - (b) a member of the Commission's staff,
  - (c) a member of a committee established by the Commission, and
  - (d) an Investigating Commissioner.
- (7) The Commission shall make administrative arrangements designed to secure that information in connection with conciliation services provided in accordance with arrangements made under this section is not disclosed to—
  - (a) a Commissioner, or
  - (b) a member of the Commission's staff.
- (8) But subsection (7) shall not apply to a disclosure—
  - (a) made with the consent of the parties to the dispute to which it relates,
  - (b) which does not identify individuals or enable them to be identified, or
  - (c) of information without which arrangements under this section cannot be made.
- (9) In this section “conciliation services” means a service which is provided—
  - (a) by a person who is not party to a dispute,
  - (b) to the parties to the dispute, and
  - (c) with the aim of enabling the dispute to be settled by agreement and without legal proceedings.
- (10) The Secretary of State may by order amend this section so as to vary the range of disputes in respect of which the Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services.

#### Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 27(1)(c) inserted (1.9.2007) by [The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 \(Amendment etc.\) \(General Qualifications Bodies\) \(Alteration of Premises and Enforcement\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2405\)](#), [reg. 7](#)
- F4** Word in s. 27(1)(f) omitted (1.10.2006) by virtue of [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1031\)](#), [reg. 49\(1\)](#), [Sch. 8 para. 39\(2\)](#) (with regs. 44-46)
- F5** S. 27(1)(g) and preceding word inserted (1.10.2006) by [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1031\)](#), [reg. 49\(1\)](#), [Sch. 8 para. 39\(3\)](#) (with regs. 44-46)

## 27 Conciliation **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes in respect of which proceedings have been or could be brought under or by virtue of—
  - (a) section 66 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (civil proceedings),
  - (b) section 57 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (civil proceedings),

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- (c) section 25, 28I, 28N, 28V or 31AE(1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (civil proceedings),
  - (d) section 66 below,
  - (e) a provision of regulations under Part 3 of this Act corresponding to section 66 below,
  - (f) regulation 31 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660) (civil proceedings), or
  - (g) regulation 31 of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1661) (civil proceedings).
- (2) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes about a landlord's reasonableness in relation to consent to the making of an improvement to a dwelling in England or Wales where the improvement would be likely to facilitate the enjoyment of the premises by the tenant or another lawful occupier having regard to a disability.
- (3) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes about whether—
- (a) it is unreasonable for a landlord of a house (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland to withhold consent to the carrying out of work in relation to the house for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence, or
  - (b) any condition imposed by such a landlord on consenting to the carrying out of such work is unreasonable.
- (4) The Commission shall aim to exercise the powers in subsections (1) to (3) so as to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, conciliation services are available to parties who want them.
- (5) Information communicated to a person providing conciliation services in accordance with arrangements under this section may not be adduced in legal proceedings without the consent of the person who communicated the information.
- (6) None of the following shall participate in the provision of conciliation services for which arrangements are made under this section—
- (a) a Commissioner,
  - (b) a member of the Commission's staff,
  - (c) a member of a committee established by the Commission, and
  - (d) an Investigating Commissioner.
- (7) The Commission shall make administrative arrangements designed to secure that information in connection with conciliation services provided in accordance with arrangements made under this section is not disclosed to—
- (a) a Commissioner, or
  - (b) a member of the Commission's staff.
- (8) But subsection (7) shall not apply to a disclosure—
- (a) made with the consent of the parties to the dispute to which it relates,
  - (b) which does not identify individuals or enable them to be identified, or

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(c) of information without which arrangements under this section cannot be made.

(9) In this section “conciliation services” means a service which is provided—

- (a) by a person who is not party to a dispute,
- (b) to the parties to the dispute, and
- (c) with the aim of enabling the dispute to be settled by agreement and without legal proceedings.

(10) The Secretary of State may by order amend this section so as to vary the range of disputes in respect of which the Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services.

## 27 Conciliation **E+W+S**

(1) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes in respect of which proceedings have been or could be brought under or by virtue of—

- (a) section 66 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (civil proceedings),
- (b) section 57 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (civil proceedings),
- (c) section 25, 28I, 28N, 28V or 31AE(1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (civil proceedings),
- (d) section 66 below,
- (e) a provision of regulations under Part 3 of this Act corresponding to section 66 below,
- (f) regulation 31 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660) (civil proceedings),<sup>F4</sup> ...
- (g) regulation 31 of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1661) (civil proceedings).<sup>F5</sup> or
- (h) regulation 39 of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 (Jurisdiction of County and Sheriff Courts).]

<sup>F5</sup>(2) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes about a landlord's reasonableness in relation to consent to the making of an improvement to a dwelling in England or Wales where the improvement would be likely to facilitate the enjoyment of the premises by the tenant or another lawful occupier having regard to a disability.

(3) The Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services for disputes about whether—

- (a) it is unreasonable for a landlord of a house (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland to withhold consent to the carrying out of work in relation to the house for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence, or
- (b) any condition imposed by such a landlord on consenting to the carrying out of such work is unreasonable.

(4) The Commission shall aim to exercise the powers in subsections (1) to (3) so as to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, conciliation services are available to parties who want them.

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- (5) Information communicated to a person providing conciliation services in accordance with arrangements under this section may not be adduced in legal proceedings without the consent of the person who communicated the information.
- (6) None of the following shall participate in the provision of conciliation services for which arrangements are made under this section—
  - (a) a Commissioner,
  - (b) a member of the Commission's staff,
  - (c) a member of a committee established by the Commission, and
  - (d) an Investigating Commissioner.
- (7) The Commission shall make administrative arrangements designed to secure that information in connection with conciliation services provided in accordance with arrangements made under this section is not disclosed to—
  - (a) a Commissioner, or
  - (b) a member of the Commission's staff.
- (8) But subsection (7) shall not apply to a disclosure—
  - (a) made with the consent of the parties to the dispute to which it relates,
  - (b) which does not identify individuals or enable them to be identified, or
  - (c) of information without which arrangements under this section cannot be made.
- (9) In this section “conciliation services” means a service which is provided—
  - (a) by a person who is not party to a dispute,
  - (b) to the parties to the dispute, and
  - (c) with the aim of enabling the dispute to be settled by agreement and without legal proceedings.
- (10) The Secretary of State may by order amend this section so as to vary the range of disputes in respect of which the Commission may make arrangements for the provision of conciliation services.

#### Textual Amendments

- F4** Word in s. 27(1)(f) omitted (1.10.2006) by virtue of [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1031\)](#), reg. 49(1), [Sch. 8 para. 39\(2\)](#) (with regs. 44-46)
- F5** S. 27(1)(g) and preceding word inserted (1.10.2006) by [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1031\)](#), reg. 49(1), [Sch. 8 para. 39\(3\)](#) (with regs. 44-46)

## 28 Legal assistance **E+W+S**

- (1) The Commission may assist an individual who is or may become party to legal proceedings if—
  - (a) the proceedings relate or may relate (wholly or partly) to a provision of the equality enactments, and
  - (b) the individual alleges that he has been the victim of behaviour contrary to a provision of the equality enactments.
- (2) The Commission may assist an individual who is or may become party to legal proceedings in England and Wales if and in so far as the proceedings concern or

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may concern the question of a landlord's reasonableness in relation to consent to the making of an improvement to a dwelling where the improvement would be likely to facilitate the enjoyment of the premises by the tenant or another lawful occupier having regard to a disability.

- (3) The Commission may assist an individual who is or may become a party to legal proceedings in Scotland if and in so far as the proceedings concern or may concern the question whether—
  - (a) it is unreasonable for a landlord to withhold consent to the carrying out of work in relation to a house (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence, or
  - (b) any condition imposed by a landlord on consenting to the carrying out of such work is unreasonable.
- (4) In giving assistance under this section the Commission may provide or arrange for the provision of—
  - (a) legal advice;
  - (b) legal representation;
  - (c) facilities for the settlement of a dispute;
  - (d) any other form of assistance.
- (5) Assistance may not be given under subsection (1) in relation to alleged behaviour contrary to a provision of Part V of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (public transport).
- (6) Where proceedings relate or may relate partly to a provision of the equality enactments and partly to other matters—
  - (a) assistance may be given under subsection (1) in respect of any aspect of the proceedings while they relate to a provision of the equality enactments, but
  - (b) if the proceedings cease to relate to a provision of the equality enactments, assistance may not be continued under subsection (1) in respect of the proceedings (except in so far as it is permitted by virtue of subsection (7) or (8)).
- (7) The Lord Chancellor may by order disapply subsection (6)(b), and enable the Commission to give assistance under subsection (1), in respect of legal proceedings which—
  - (a) when instituted, related (wholly or partly) to a provision of the equality enactments,
  - (b) have ceased to relate to the provision of the equality enactments, and
  - (c) relate (wholly or partly) to any of the Convention rights within the meaning given by section 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (c. 42).
- (8) The Secretary of State may by order enable the Commission to give assistance under this section in respect of legal proceedings in the course of which an individual who is or has been a disabled person relies or proposes to rely on a matter relating to his disability; but an order under this subsection may not permit assistance in relation to alleged behaviour contrary to a provision of Part V of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50).



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- (9) An order under subsection (7) or (8) may make provision generally or only in relation to proceedings of a specified kind or description (which in the case of an order under subsection (7) may, in particular, refer to specified provisions of the equality enactments) or in relation to specified circumstances.
- (10) This section is without prejudice to the effect of any restriction imposed, in respect of representation—
  - (a) by virtue of an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament), or
  - (b) in accordance with the practice of a court.
- (11) A legislative provision which requires insurance or an indemnity in respect of advice given in connection with a compromise contract or agreement shall not apply to advice provided by the Commission under this section.
- (12) A reference in this section to a provision of the equality enactments includes a reference to a provision of Community law which—
  - (a) relates to discrimination on grounds of sex (including reassignment of gender), racial origin, ethnic origin, religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and
  - (b) confers rights on individuals.
- (13) In its application by virtue of subsection (12), subsection (1)(b) shall have effect as if it referred to an allegation by an individual that he is disadvantaged by—
  - (a) an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament) which is contrary to a provision of Community law, or
  - (b) a failure by the United Kingdom to implement a right as required by Community law.

## 29 Legal assistance: costs **E+W+S**

- (1) This section applies where—
  - (a) the Commission has assisted an individual under section 28 in relation to proceedings, and
  - (b) the individual becomes entitled to some or all of his costs in the proceedings (whether by virtue of an award or by virtue of an agreement).
- (2) The Commission's expenses in providing the assistance—
  - (a) shall be charged on sums paid to the individual by way of costs, and
  - (b) may be enforced as a debt due to the Commission.
- (3) A requirement to pay money to the Commission under subsection (2) ranks, in England and Wales, after a requirement imposed by virtue of section 11(4)(f) of the Access to Justice Act 1999 (c. 22) (recovery of costs in funded cases).
- (4) Subsection (2), in its application to Scotland, shall not affect the operation of section 17(2A) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 (c. 47) (requirement in certain cases to pay to the Scottish Legal Aid Board sums recovered under awards of, or agreements as to, expenses).
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (2) the Commission's expenses shall be calculated in accordance with such provision (if any) as the Secretary of State makes for

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the purpose by regulations; and regulations may, in particular, provide for the apportionment of expenditure incurred by the Commission—

- (a) partly for one purpose and partly for another, or
- (b) for general purposes.

- (6) In the application of this section to Scotland a reference to costs shall be taken as a reference to expenses.

### 30 **Judicial review and other legal proceedings** E+W+S

- (1) The Commission shall have capacity to institute or intervene in legal proceedings, whether for judicial review or otherwise, if it appears to the Commission that the proceedings are relevant to a matter in connection with which the Commission has a function.

- (2) The Commission shall be taken to have title and interest in relation to the subject matter of any legal proceedings in Scotland which it has capacity to institute, or in which it has capacity to intervene, by virtue of subsection (1).

- (3) The Commission may, in the course of legal proceedings for judicial review which it institutes (or in which it intervenes), rely on section 7(1)(b) of the Human Rights Act 1998 (c. 42) (breach of Convention rights); and for that purpose—

- (a) the Commission need not be a victim or potential victim of the unlawful act to which the proceedings relate,
- (b) the Commission may act only if there is or would be one or more victims of the unlawful act,
- (c) section 7(3) and (4) of that Act shall not apply, and
- (d) no award of damages may be made to the Commission (whether or not the exception in section 8(3) of that Act applies);

and an expression used in this subsection and in section 7 of the Human Rights Act 1998 has the same meaning in this subsection as in that section.

- (4) Subsections (1) and (2)—

- (a) do not create a cause of action, and
- (b) are, except as provided by subsection (3), subject to any limitation or restriction imposed by virtue of an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament) or in accordance with the practice of a court.

### 31 **Public sector duties: assessment** E+W+S

- (1) The Commission may assess the extent to which or the manner in which a person has complied with a duty under or by virtue of—

- (a) section 76A, 76B or 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.),
- (b) section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.), or
- (c) section 49A or 49D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.).

- (2) Schedule 2 makes supplemental provision about assessments.

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(3) This section is without prejudice to the generality of sections 16 and 20.

### **32 Public sector duties: compliance notice** **E+W+S**

(1) This section applies where the Commission thinks that a person has failed to comply with a duty under or by virtue of —

- (a) section 76A, 76B or 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.),
- (b) section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.), or
- (c) section 49A or 49D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.).

(2) The Commission may give the person a notice requiring him—

- (a) to comply with the duty, and
- (b) to give the Commission, within the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which he receives the notice, written information of steps taken or proposed for the purpose of complying with the duty.

(3) A notice under this section may require a person to give the Commission information required by the Commission for the purposes of assessing compliance with the duty; in which case the notice shall specify—

- (a) the period within which the information is to be given (which shall begin with the date on which the notice is received and shall not exceed three months), and
- (b) the manner and form in which the information is to be given.

(4) The Commission may not give a notice under this section in respect of a duty under section 76A of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1976 or section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 unless—

- (a) the Commission has carried out an assessment under section 31 above, and
- (b) the notice relates to the results of the assessment.

(5) A person who receives a notice under this section shall comply with it.

(6) But a notice under this section shall not oblige a person to give information—

- (a) that he is prohibited from disclosing by virtue of an enactment, or
- (b) that he could not be compelled to give in proceedings before the High Court or the Court of Session.

(7) Paragraphs 11 and 14 of Schedule 2 shall have effect (with any necessary modifications) in relation to a requirement imposed by a notice under this section as they have effect in relation to a requirement imposed by a notice under paragraph 9 of that Schedule.

(8) If the Commission thinks that a person, to whom a notice under this section has been given, has failed to comply with a requirement of the notice, the Commission may apply to the court for an order requiring the person to comply.

(9) In subsection (8) “the court” means—

- (a) where the notice related to a duty under section 76A of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65), section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) or section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50),

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- the High Court (in England and Wales) or (in Scotland) the Court of Session, and
- (b) in any other case, a county court (in England and Wales) or the sheriff (in Scotland).
- (10) A notice under this section shall specify a time before which the Commission may not make an application under subsection (8) in respect of the notice.
- (11) Legal proceedings in relation to a duty by virtue of section 76B or 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, section 71(2) of the Race Relations Act 1976 or section 49D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995—
- (a) may be brought by the Commission in accordance with subsection (8) above, and
- (b) may not be brought in any other way.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C3** S. 32(8) applied (with modifications) (1.10.2007) by [The Equality Act 2006 \(Dissolution of Commissions and Consequential and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/2602\)](#), **art. 5(4)**

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

*Interpretation*

**33 Equality and human rights enactments** **E+W+S**

- (1) In this Part “the equality enactments” means—
- (a) the Equal Pay Act 1970 (c. 41),
- (b) the Sex Discrimination Act 1975,
- (c) the Race Relations Act 1976,
- (d) the Disability Discrimination Act 1995,
- (e) Part 2 of this Act,
- (f) regulations under Part 3 of this Act,
- (g) the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1661), and
- (h) the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660).
- (2) In this Part “the equality and human rights enactments” means the equality enactments and the Human Rights Act 1998 (c. 42).
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order amend the list in subsection (1) so as to—
- (a) add an entry,
- (b) remove an entry, or
- (c) vary an entry.

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### 34 Unlawful **E+W+S**

- (1) In this Part (except section 30(3)) “unlawful” means contrary to a provision of the equality enactments.
- (2) But action is not unlawful for the purposes of this Part by reason only of the fact that it contravenes a duty under or by virtue of—
  - (a) section 76A, 76B or 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.),
  - (b) section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (public authorities: duty to eliminate discrimination, &c.), or
  - (c) any of the following provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50)—
    - (i) Part 5 (public transport),
    - (ii) sections 49A and 49D (public authorities), and
    - (iii) section 49G (consent to tenant's improvements).

### 35 General **E+W+S**

In this Part—

- “act” includes deliberate omission,
- “groups” has the meaning given by section 10,
- “the Commission” means the Commission for Equality and Human Rights,
- “disabled person” has the meaning given by section 8,
- “human rights” has the meaning given by section 9,
- “race” includes colour, nationality, ethnic origin and national origin,
- “religion or belief” has the same meaning as in Part 2 (as defined by section 44), and
- “sexual orientation” means an individual's sexual orientation towards—
  - (a) persons of the same sex as him or her,
  - (b) persons of the opposite sex, or
  - (c) both.

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

## *Dissolution of Existing Commissions*

### 36 Dissolution **E+W+S**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order provide for—
  - (a) any of the former Commissions to cease to exist, or
  - (b) the removal from any of the former Commissions of a specified function.
- (2) In this Part “the former Commissions” means—
  - (a) the Equal Opportunities Commission,
  - (b) the Commission for Racial Equality, and
  - (c) the Disability Rights Commission.

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- (3) The Secretary of State shall by exercising the power under subsection (1) ensure that each of the former Commissions ceases to exist not later than the end of 31st March 2009.

**37 Transfer of property, &c. E+W+S**

- (1) An order under section 36(1) in respect of any of the former Commissions may provide for the transfer to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights of specified property, rights and liabilities of the former Commission.
- (2) The Secretary of State may give a former Commission any direction that the Secretary of State thinks appropriate in connection with the dissolution of the former Commission or the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights; and a direction may, in particular, require the former Commission—
- (a) to provide information in connection with property, rights or liabilities;
  - (b) to provide information in connection with the exercise of functions;
  - (c) to transfer specified property, rights and liabilities to a specified person;
  - (d) to make property, staff or facilities available, on such terms or conditions as may be specified in the direction, to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights;
  - (e) not to take action of a specified kind or in specified circumstances.
- (3) The Secretary of State may direct a former Commission to prepare a scheme for the transfer of specified property, rights and liabilities to—
- (a) the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, or
  - (b) another person specified in the direction.
- (4) If the Secretary of State gives a direction under subsection (3)—
- (a) the former Commission shall prepare a scheme in accordance with the direction, having consulted either the Commission for Equality and Human Rights or the person specified under subsection (3)(b), and
  - (b) the scheme shall have effect—
    - (i) when approved by the Secretary of State, and
    - (ii) subject to any modifications made by him, having consulted the former Commission and either the Commission for Equality and Human Rights or the person specified under subsection (3)(b).
- (5) Where a former Commission ceases to exist by virtue of section 36(1)(a), its property, rights and liabilities shall by virtue of this subsection vest in the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (and this subsection operates in addition to any transfer provided for by virtue of subsection (1) above).
- (6) An order, direction or scheme under or by virtue of this section may, in particular—
- (a) specify property, rights or liabilities;
  - (b) specify a class or description of property, rights or liabilities;
  - (c) specify property, rights or liabilities to a specified extent.

**38 Transfer of property: supplemental E+W+S**

- (1) A direction under section 37—
- (a) shall be in writing,

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- (b) may be given only following consultation with the former Commission to which the direction relates and, where the Secretary of State thinks it appropriate, the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and
  - (c) may be varied or revoked by a further direction.
- (2) In so far as is appropriate as a consequence of a transfer effected by or by virtue of section 37—
  - (a) anything done by or in relation to any of the former Commissions which has effect immediately before the transfer shall continue to have effect as if done by or in relation to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and
  - (b) anything (including any legal proceedings) which immediately before the transfer is in the process of being done by or in relation to any of the former Commissions may be continued by or in relation to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.
- (3) In so far as is appropriate in consequence of a transfer effected by or by virtue of section 37 a reference to any of the former Commissions in an agreement, instrument or other document shall be treated as a reference to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.
- (4) Section 37, and a direction, scheme or order under or by virtue of that section, shall operate in relation to property, rights or liabilities—
  - (a) whether or not they would otherwise be capable of being transferred,
  - (b) without any instrument or other formality being required, and
  - (c) irrespective of any requirement for consent that would otherwise apply.
- (5) A scheme or order under or by virtue of section 37 which relates to rights or liabilities under a contract of employment—
  - (a) must provide for the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (S.I. 1981/1794), and
  - (b) must provide that for any purpose relating to an employee of a former commission who becomes an employee of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights by virtue of the scheme or order—
    - (i) a period of employment with the former commission shall be treated as a period of employment with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and
    - (ii) the transfer to that Commission shall not be treated as a break in service.

### Miscellaneous

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

## 39 Orders and regulations **E+W+S**

- (1) An order of a Minister of the Crown under this Part and regulations under this Part shall be made by statutory instrument.
- (2) An order of a Minister of the Crown under this Part and regulations under this Part—
  - (a) may make provision generally or only for specified purposes,

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- (b) may make different provision for different purposes, and
  - (c) may include transitional, incidental or consequential provision.
- (3) An order or regulations under any of the following provisions shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament—
- (a) section 15(3),
  - (b) section 28,
  - (c) section 29,
  - (d) section 36, and
  - (e) Part 5 of Schedule 1.
- (4) An order under section 10(6), 15(6), 27(10) or 33(3)—
- (a) may, in particular, make consequential amendment of an enactment (including this Act and including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament), and
  - (b) may not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) An incidental provision included in an order or regulations by virtue of subsection (2)
- (c) may, in particular, impose a requirement for consent to action under or by virtue of the order or regulations.

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

**40 Consequential amendments** E+W+S

Schedule 3 (consequential amendments) shall have effect.

**Commencement Information**

- II** [S. 40](#) wholly in force at 1.10.2007; [s. 40](#) not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 93](#); [s. 40](#) in force for certain purposes at 18.4.2006 by [S.I. 2006/1082](#), [art. 2](#); [s. 40](#) in force for certain further purposes at 30.4.2007 by [S.I. 2007/1092](#), [art. 2](#); [s. 40](#) in force at 1.10.2007 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2007/2603](#), [art. 2](#)

**41 Transitional: the Commission** E+W+S

- (1) If an order under section 93 provides for any of sections 1 to 3 and Schedule 1 to come into force (to any extent) at a time before any of sections 8 to 32 come into force (to any extent)—
- (a) the period between that time and the commencement of any of sections 8 to 32 (to any extent) is the “transitional period” for the purposes of this section, and
  - (b) the following provisions of this section shall have effect.
- (2) During the transitional period the minimum number of Commissioners shall be five (and not as provided by paragraph 1 of Schedule 1).



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- (3) The Secretary of State shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after making the first appointments under that paragraph, appoint as additional members of the Commission (to be known as Transition Commissioners)—
  - (a) a commissioner of the Equal Opportunities Commission nominated by its chairman,
  - (b) a commissioner of the Commission for Racial Equality nominated by its chairman, and
  - (c) a commissioner of the Disability Rights Commission nominated by its chairman.
- (4) A person may nominate himself as a Transition Commissioner.
- (5) If a Transition Commissioner ceases to be a commissioner of the Commission whose chairman nominated him—
  - (a) he shall cease to be a Transition Commissioner,
  - (b) the chairman of that Commission shall nominate a replacement, and
  - (c) the Secretary of State shall appoint the nominated replacement.
- (6) A person shall hold appointment as a Transition Commissioner until a time specified by order of the Secretary of State (subject to subsection (5)); and the Secretary of State shall specify a time which in his opinion is not more than two years after the time when, by virtue of section 36, the Commission whose chairman nominated the Transition Commissioner—
  - (a) ceases to exist, or
  - (b) loses its principal functions.
- (7) In all other respects the provisions of this Part apply in relation to a Transition Commissioner as in relation to another Commissioner.

#### **42 Transitional: functions of the dissolved Commissions** E+W+S

- (1) An order under section 36(1)(a) or (b) may—
  - (a) provide for a former Commission to continue to exercise a function in respect of a transitional case of a kind specified;
  - (b) provide for the Commission for Equality and Human Rights to exercise a function of a former Commission in respect of a transitional case of a kind specified.
- (2) An order under section 93 commencing a provision of Schedule 3 or 4 may include a saving or a consequential or incidental provision for the purpose of the operation of provision made by virtue of subsection (1) above; and the saving, consequential or incidental provision may, in particular, include provision applying, disapplying or modifying the application of a provision of this Act or of another enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament).
- (3) A code of practice issued by a Commission dissolved by virtue of section 36, or which relates to a function of a Commission removed by virtue of section 36(1)(b)—
  - (a) shall continue to have effect until revoked by the Secretary of State, at the request of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, by order made by statutory instrument, and
  - (b) may be revised by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights as if it had been issued under section 14.

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- (4) Consultation undertaken by a former Commission in relation to the issue or revision of a code of practice may be relied upon by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights for a purpose of section 14.
- (5) An order under subsection (3)(a) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

**43 Transitional: rented housing in Scotland E+W+S**

- (1) In the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50), the following shall be inserted after section 49H (conciliation of disputes about improvements to let dwelling houses in England and Wales)—

**“49I Conciliation of disputes: rented housing in Scotland**

- (1) The Disability Rights Commission may make arrangements with any other person for the provision of conciliation services by, or by persons appointed by, that person in relation to a dispute of any description concerning the question whether—
    - (a) it is unreasonable for a landlord to withhold consent to the carrying out of any relevant work in relation to a house (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland, or
    - (b) any condition imposed by a landlord on consenting to the carrying out of any such work is unreasonable.
  - (2) Subsections (2) to (8) of section 28 apply for the purpose of this section as they apply for the purpose of that section and for that purpose a reference in that section to—
    - (a) a dispute arising under Part 3 is to be construed as a reference to a dispute mentioned in subsection (1), and
    - (b) arrangements under that section is to be construed as a reference to arrangements under subsection (1).
  - (3) In subsection (1), “relevant work”, in relation to a house, means work for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence.”
- (2) In section 53A (codes of practice) of that Act—
    - (a) after subsection (1E) insert—
 

“(1F) The Commission may prepare and issue codes of practice giving practical guidance to landlords and tenants of houses (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland as to—

      - (a) circumstances in which the tenant requires the consent of the landlord to the carrying out of work in relation to the house for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled

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- person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence,
- (b) circumstances in which it is unreasonable to withhold such consent,
  - (c) circumstances in which any condition imposed on the granting of such consent is unreasonable, and
  - (d) the application, in relation to such work, of—
    - (i) sections 28 to 31 and 34(6) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10), and
    - (ii) sections 52, 53 and 64(6) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01).”
- (b) after subsection (4A) insert—
- “(4B) Where a draft code of practice under subsection (1F) is submitted to the Secretary of State for approval, the Secretary of State must, before deciding whether to approve it, consult the Scottish Ministers.”
- (c) after subsection (6A) insert—
- “(6B) Before appointing a day under subsection (6)(a) for the coming into effect of a code of practice under subsection (1F), the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers.”
- (d) after subsection (8A) insert—
- “(8B) Subsection (8A) does not apply to a code of practice under subsection (1F).”
- (3) In section 7 of the Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 (c. 17) (provision of assistance in relation to proceedings), in subsection (1), after paragraph (aa) insert—
- “(ab) proceedings in Scotland of any description to the extent that the question whether—
- (i) it is unreasonable for a landlord to withhold consent to the carrying out of work in relation to a house (within the meaning of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 01)) in Scotland for the purpose of making the house suitable for the accommodation, welfare or employment of any disabled person who occupies, or intends to occupy, the house as a sole or main residence, or
  - (ii) any condition imposed by a landlord on consenting to the carrying out of any such work is unreasonable,
- falls to be considered in the proceedings,”.

#### Commencement Information

- 12** S. 43 wholly in force at 4.12.2006; s. 43 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 93; s. 43(2) in force at 18.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/1082, art. 2; s. 43(1)(3) in force at 4.12.2006 by S.I. 2006/1082, art. 3

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VALID FROM 18/04/2006

## PART 2 **E+W+S**

### DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

#### *Key concepts*

#### 44 **Religion and belief** **E+W+S**

In this Part—

- (a) “religion” means any religion,
- (b) “belief” means any religious or philosophical belief,
- (c) a reference to religion includes a reference to lack of religion, and
- (d) a reference to belief includes a reference to lack of belief.

#### 45 **Discrimination** **E+W+S**

- (1) A person (“A”) discriminates against another (“B”) for the purposes of this Part if on grounds of the religion or belief of B or of any other person except A (whether or not it is also A's religion or belief) A treats B less favourably than he treats or would treat others (in cases where there is no material difference in the relevant circumstances).
- (2) In subsection (1) a reference to a person's religion or belief includes a reference to a religion or belief to which he is thought to belong or subscribe.
- (3) A person (“A”) discriminates against another (“B”) for the purposes of this Part if A applies to B a provision, criterion or practice—
  - (a) which he applies or would apply equally to persons not of B's religion or belief,
  - (b) which puts persons of B's religion or belief at a disadvantage compared to some or all others (where there is no material difference in the relevant circumstances),
  - (c) which puts B at a disadvantage compared to some or all persons who are not of his religion or belief (where there is no material difference in the relevant circumstances), and
  - (d) which A cannot reasonably justify by reference to matters other than B's religion or belief.
- (4) A person (“A”) discriminates against another (“B”) if A treats B less favourably than he treats or would treat another and does so by reason of the fact that, or by reason of A's knowledge or suspicion that, B—
  - (a) has brought or intended to bring, or intends to bring, proceedings under this Part,

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- (b) has given or intended to give, or intends to give, evidence in proceedings under this Part,
  - (c) has provided or intended to provide, or intends to provide, information in connection with proceedings under this Part,
  - (d) has done or intended to do, or intends to do, any other thing under or in connection with this Part, or
  - (e) has alleged or intended to allege, or intends to allege, that a person contravened this Part.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply where A's treatment of B relates to B's making or intending to make, not in good faith, a false allegation.

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

### *Prohibited discrimination*

#### **46 Goods, facilities and services** **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for a person (“A”) concerned with the provision to the public or a section of the public of goods, facilities or services to discriminate against a person (“B”) who seeks to obtain or use those goods, facilities or services—
- (a) by refusing to provide B with goods, facilities or services,
  - (b) by refusing to provide B with goods, facilities or services of a quality which is the same as or similar to the quality of goods, facilities or services that A normally provides to—
    - (i) the public, or
    - (ii) a section of the public to which B belongs,
  - (c) by refusing to provide B with goods, facilities or services in a manner which is the same as or similar to that in which A normally provides goods, facilities or services to—
    - (i) the public, or
    - (ii) a section of the public to which B belongs, or
  - (d) by refusing to provide B with goods, facilities or services on terms which are the same as or similar to the terms on which A normally provides goods, facilities or services to—
    - (i) the public, or
    - (ii) a section of the public to which B belongs.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies, in particular, to—
- (a) access to and use of a place which the public are permitted to enter,
  - (b) accommodation in a hotel, boarding house or similar establishment,
  - (c) facilities by way of banking or insurance or for grants, loans, credit or finance,
  - (d) facilities for entertainment, recreation or refreshment,
  - (e) facilities for transport or travel, and
  - (f) the services of a profession or trade.

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- (3) Where a skill is commonly exercised in different ways in relation to or for the purposes of different religions or beliefs, a person who normally exercises it in relation to or for the purpose of a religion or belief does not contravene subsection (1) by—
- (a) insisting on exercising the skill in the way in which he exercises it in relation to or for the purposes of that religion or belief, or
  - (b) if he reasonably considers it impracticable to exercise the skill in that way in relation to or for the purposes of another religion or belief, refusing to exercise it in relation to or for the purposes of that other religion or belief.
- (4) Subsection (1)—
- (a) does not apply in relation to the provision of goods, facilities or services by a person exercising a public function, and
  - (b) does not apply to discrimination in relation to the provision of goods, facilities or services if discrimination in relation to that provision—
    - (i) is unlawful by virtue of another provision of this Part or by virtue of a provision of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660), or
    - (ii) would be unlawful by virtue of another provision of this Part or of those regulations but for an express exception.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (1) it is immaterial whether or not a person charges for the provision of goods, facilities or services.

#### 47 Premises **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for a person to discriminate against another—
- (a) in the terms on which he offers to dispose of premises to him,
  - (b) by refusing to dispose of premises to him, or
  - (c) in connection with a list of persons requiring premises.
- (2) It is unlawful for a person managing premises to discriminate against an occupier—
- (a) in the manner in which he provides access to a benefit or facility,
  - (b) by refusing access to a benefit or facility,
  - (c) by evicting him, or
  - (d) by subjecting him to another detriment.
- (3) It is unlawful for a person to discriminate against another by refusing permission for the disposal of premises to him.
- (4) This section applies only to premises in Great Britain.

#### 48 Section 47: exceptions **E+W+S**

- (1) Section 47 shall not apply to anything done in relation to the disposal or management of part of premises by a person (“the landlord”) if—
- (a) the landlord or a near relative resides, and intends to continue to reside, in another part of the premises,
  - (b) the premises include parts (other than storage areas and means of access) shared by residents of the premises, and
  - (c) the premises are not normally sufficient to accommodate—

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- (i) in the case of premises to be occupied by households, more than two households in addition to that of the landlord or his near relative, or
  - (ii) in the case of premises to be occupied by individuals, more than six individuals in addition to the landlord or his near relative.
- (2) In subsection (1) “near relative” means—
- (a) spouse or civil partner,
  - (b) parent or grandparent,
  - (c) child or grandchild (whether or not legitimate),
  - (d) the spouse or civil partner of a child or grandchild,
  - (e) brother or sister (whether of full blood or half-blood), and
  - (f) any of the relationships listed in paragraphs (b) to (e) above that arises through marriage, civil partnership or adoption.
- (3) Section 47(1) and (3) shall not apply to the disposal of premises by a person who—
- (a) owns an estate or interest in the premises,
  - (b) occupies the whole of the premises,
  - (c) does not use the services of an estate agent for the purposes of the disposal, and
  - (d) does not arrange for the publication of an advertisement for the purposes of the disposal.

#### 49 Educational establishments **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for the responsible body of an educational establishment listed in the Table to discriminate against a person—
- (a) in the terms on which it offers to admit him as a pupil,
  - (b) by refusing to accept an application to admit him as a pupil, or
  - (c) where he is a pupil of the establishment—
    - (i) in the way in which it affords him access to any benefit, facility or service,
    - (ii) by refusing him access to a benefit, facility or service,
    - (iii) by excluding him from the establishment, or
    - (iv) by subjecting him to any other detriment.
- (2) In the application of this section to England and Wales—
- (a) an expression also used in any of the Education Acts (within the meaning of section 578 of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56)) has the same meaning as in that Act, and
  - (b) “pupil” in relation to an establishment includes any person who receives education at the establishment.
- (3) In the application of this section to Scotland, an expression also used in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (c. 44) has the same meaning as in that Act.

*Establishment*

*Responsible body*

ENGLAND AND WALES

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School maintained by a local education authority.	Local education authority or governing body.
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Independent school (other than a special school).	Proprietor.
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Special school (not maintained by local education authority).	Proprietor.
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#### SCOTLAND

Public school.	Education authority.
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Grant-aided school.	Manager.
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Independent school.	Proprietor.
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### 50 Section 49: exceptions **E+W+S**

- (1) Section 49(1)(a), (b) and (c)(i) and (ii) shall not apply in relation to—
- (a) a school designated under section 69(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (c. 31) (foundation or voluntary school with religious character),
  - (b) a school listed in the register of independent schools for England or for Wales if the school's entry in the register records that the school has a religious ethos,
  - (c) a school transferred to an education authority under section 16 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (transfer of certain schools to education authorities) which is conducted in the interest of a church or denominational body,
  - (d) a school provided by an education authority under section 17(2) of that Act (denominational schools),
  - (e) a grant-aided school (within the meaning of that Act) which is conducted in the interest of a church or denominational body, or
  - (f) a school registered in the register of independent schools for Scotland if the school—
    - (i) admits only pupils who belong, or whose parents belong, to one or more particular denominations, or
    - (ii) is conducted in the interest of a church or denominational body.
- (2) Section 49(1)(c)(i), (ii) or (iv) shall not apply in relation to anything done in connection with—
- (a) the content of the curriculum, or
  - (b) acts of worship or other religious observance organised by or on behalf of an educational establishment (whether or not forming part of the curriculum).
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order—
- (a) amend or repeal an exception in subsection (1) or (2);
  - (b) provide for an additional exception to section 49;
  - (c) make provision about the construction or application of section 45(3)(d) in relation to section 49.
- (4) An order under subsection (3)—



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- (a) may include transitional, incidental or consequential provision (including provision amending an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament)),
- (b) may make provision generally or only in respect of specified cases or circumstances (which may, in particular, be defined by reference to location),
- (c) may make different provision in respect of different cases or circumstances (which may, in particular, be defined by reference to location),
- (d) shall be made by statutory instrument,
- (e) may not be made unless the Secretary of State has consulted the Scottish Ministers, the National Assembly for Wales and such other persons as he thinks appropriate, and
- (f) may not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

## 51 Local education authorities and education authorities **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for a local education authority (in England and Wales) or an education authority (in Scotland) in the exercise of their functions to discriminate against a person.
- (2) In its application to local education authorities the prohibition in subsection (1) shall not apply to—
  - (a) the exercise of an authority's functions under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56) (provision of schools),
  - (b) the exercise of an authority's functions in relation to transport,
  - (c) the exercise of an authority's functions under section 13 of that Act (general responsibility for education) in so far as they relate to a matter specified in paragraph (a) or (b) above, or
  - (d) the exercise of functions as the responsible body for an establishment listed in the Table in section 49.
- (3) In its application to education authorities the prohibition in subsection (1) shall not apply to—
  - (a) the exercise of an authority's functions under section 17 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (c. 44) (provision etc. of schools),
  - (b) the exercise of an authority's functions in relation to transport,
  - (c) the exercise of an authority's functions under section 1 of that Act, section 2 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (asp 6) and sections 4 and 5 of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 4) (duties in relation to provision of education) in so far as they relate to a matter specified in paragraph (a) or (b) above,
  - (d) the exercise of an authority's functions under section 50(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (education of pupils in exceptional circumstances) in so far as they consist of making arrangements of the kind referred to in subsection (2) of that section, or
  - (e) the exercise of functions as the responsible body for an establishment listed in the Table in section 49.

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VALID FROM 18/04/2006

**52 Public authorities: general E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for a public authority exercising a function to do any act which constitutes discrimination.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
  - (a) “public authority” includes any person who has functions of a public nature (subject to subsections (3) and (4)), and
  - (b) “function” means function of a public nature.
- (3) The prohibition in subsection (1) shall not apply to—
  - (a) the House of Commons,
  - (b) the House of Lords,
  - (c) the authorities of either House of Parliament,
  - (d) the Security Service,
  - (e) the Secret Intelligence Service,
  - (f) the Government Communications Headquarters, or
  - (g) a part of the armed forces of the Crown which is, in accordance with a requirement of the Secretary of State, assisting the Government Communications Headquarters.
- (4) The prohibition in subsection (1) shall not apply to—
  - (a) the exercise of a judicial function (whether in connection with a court or a tribunal),
  - (b) anything done on behalf of or on the instructions of a person exercising a judicial function (whether in connection with a court or a tribunal),
  - (c) preparing, passing (or making), confirming, approving or considering an enactment (including legislation made by or by virtue of a Measure of the General Synod of the Church of England),
  - (d) the making of an instrument by a Minister of the Crown under an enactment,
  - (e) the making of an instrument by the Scottish Ministers or a member of the Scottish Executive under an enactment,
  - (f) a decision of any of the following kinds taken in accordance with rules under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (c. 77) (“immigration rules”) or anything done for the purposes of or in pursuance of a decision of any of those kinds—
    - (i) a decision to refuse entry clearance or leave to enter the United Kingdom on the grounds that the exclusion of the person from the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good,
    - (ii) a decision to cancel leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the grounds that the exclusion of the person from the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good,
    - (iii) a decision to refuse an application to vary leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the grounds that it is undesirable to permit the person to remain in the United Kingdom,

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- (iv) a decision to vary leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the grounds that it is undesirable to permit the person to remain in the United Kingdom,
  - (g) a decision in connection with an application for entry clearance or for leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom or anything done for the purposes of or in pursuance of a decision of that kind (whether or not the decision is taken in pursuance of a provision of immigration rules) if the decision is taken on the grounds—
    - (i) that a person holds an office or position in connection with a religion or belief or provides services in connection with a religion or belief,
    - (ii) that a religion or belief is not to be treated in the same way as certain other religions or beliefs, or
    - (iii) that the exclusion from the United Kingdom of a person to whom paragraph (i) applies is conducive to the public good,
  - (h) a decision taken, or guidance given, by the Secretary of State in connection with a decision of a kind specified in paragraph (f) or (g),
  - (i) a decision taken in accordance with guidance given by the Secretary of State in connection with a decision of a kind specified in paragraph (f) or (g),
  - (j) a decision not to institute or continue criminal proceedings (and anything done for the purpose of reaching, or in pursuance of, such a decision),
  - (k) action in relation to—
    - (i) the curriculum of an educational institution,
    - (ii) admission to an educational institution which has a religious ethos,
    - (iii) acts of worship or other religious observance organised by or on behalf of an educational institution (whether or not forming part of the curriculum),
    - (iv) the governing body of an educational institution which has a religious ethos,
    - (v) transport to or from an educational institution, or
    - (vi) the establishment, alteration or closure of educational institutions,
  - (l) the exercise of the power under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (c. 22) (promotion of well-being), or
  - (m) action which—
    - (i) is unlawful by virtue of another provision of this Part or by virtue of a provision of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660), or
    - (ii) would be unlawful by virtue of another provision of this Part other than section 46, or by virtue of a provision of those regulations, but for an express exception.
- (5) In an action under section 66 in respect of a contravention of this section—
- (a) the court shall not grant an injunction unless satisfied that it will not prejudice criminal proceedings or a criminal investigation, and
  - (b) the court shall grant any application to stay the section 66 proceedings on the grounds of prejudice to criminal proceedings or to a criminal

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investigation, unless satisfied that the proceedings or investigation will not be prejudiced.

(6) Section 70(4) shall not apply in relation to a reply, or a failure to reply, to a question in connection with an alleged contravention of this section—

- (a) if the respondent or potential respondent reasonably asserts that to have replied differently or at all might have prejudiced criminal proceedings or a criminal investigation,
- (b) if the respondent or potential respondent reasonably asserts that to have replied differently or at all would have revealed the reason for not instituting or not continuing criminal proceedings,
- (c) where the reply is of a kind specified for the purposes of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State,
- (d) where the reply is given in circumstances specified for the purposes of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State, or
- (e) where the failure occurs in circumstances specified for the purposes of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State.

(7) In this section—

“criminal investigation” means—

- (a) an investigation into the commission of an alleged offence, and
- (b) a decision whether to institute criminal proceedings, and

“enactment” includes an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

(8) An order under subsection (6)(c) to (e)—

- (a) may include transitional or incidental provision,
- (b) may make provision generally or only for specified cases or circumstances,
- (c) may make different provision for different cases or circumstances,
- (d) shall be made by statutory instrument, and
- (e) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(9) In the application of this section to proceedings in Scotland—

- (a) a reference to the court shall be taken as a reference to the sheriff,
- (b) a reference to an injunction shall be taken as a reference to an interdict,
- (c) a reference to staying proceedings shall be taken as a reference to sisting proceedings, and
- (d) a reference to the respondent or potential respondent shall be taken as a reference to the defender or potential defender.

#### Commencement Information

**I3** S. 52 wholly in force at 30.4.2007; s. 52 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 93; s. 52(6) in force at 18.4.2006 by S.I. 2006/1082, art. 2; s. 52(1-5)(7-9) in force at 30.4.2007 by S.I. 2007/1092, art. 2

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VALID FROM 30/04/2007

*Other unlawful acts*

**53 Discriminatory practices** **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for a person to operate a practice which would be likely to result in unlawful discrimination if applied to persons of any religion or belief.
- (2) It is unlawful for a person to adopt or maintain a practice or arrangement in accordance with which in certain circumstances a practice would be operated in contravention of subsection (1).
- (3) In this section “unlawful discrimination” means discrimination which is unlawful by virtue of any of sections 46 to 52.
- (4) Proceedings in respect of a contravention of this section may be brought only—
  - (a) by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and
  - (b) in accordance with sections 20 to 24.

**54 Discriminatory advertisements** **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful to publish an advertisement, or to cause an advertisement to be published, if it indicates (expressly or impliedly) an intention by any person to discriminate unlawfully.
- (2) In subsection (1) the reference to unlawful discrimination is a reference to discrimination which is unlawful by virtue of any of sections 46 to 52.
- (3) Proceedings in respect of a contravention of subsection (1) may be brought only—
  - (a) by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and
  - (b) in accordance with section 25.
- (4) A person who publishes an advertisement shall not be liable in proceedings under that section in respect of the publication of the advertisement if he proves that—
  - (a) he published in reliance on a statement, made by a person causing the advertisement to be published, that subsection (1) would not apply, and
  - (b) that it was reasonable to rely on that statement.
- (5) A person commits an offence if he knowingly or recklessly makes a false statement of the kind mentioned in subsection (4)(a).
- (6) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (5) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

**55 Instructing or causing discrimination** **E+W+S**

- (1) It is unlawful for a person to instruct another to unlawfully discriminate.
- (2) It is unlawful for a person to cause or attempt to cause another to unlawfully discriminate.

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- (3) It is unlawful for a person to induce or attempt to induce another to unlawfully discriminate.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3) inducement may be direct or indirect.
- (5) In this section a reference to unlawful discrimination is a reference to discrimination which is unlawful by virtue of any of sections 46 to 52.
- (6) Proceedings in respect of a contravention of this section may be brought only—
  - (a) by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and
  - (b) in accordance with section 25.

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

### *General exceptions*

#### **56 Statutory requirements** E+W+S

Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful to do anything which is necessary, or in so far as it is necessary, for the purpose of complying with—

- (a) an Act of Parliament,
- (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
- (c) legislation made or to be made—
  - (i) by a Minister of the Crown,
  - (ii) by Order in Council,
  - (iii) by the Scottish Ministers or a member of the Scottish Executive,
  - (iv) by the National Assembly for Wales, or
  - (v) by or by virtue of a Measure of the General Synod of the Church of England, or
- (d) a condition or requirement imposed by a Minister of the Crown by virtue of anything listed in paragraphs (a) to (c).

#### **57 Organisations relating to religion or belief** E+W+S

- (1) This section applies to an organisation the purpose of which is—
  - (a) to practice a religion or belief,
  - (b) to advance a religion or belief,
  - (c) to teach the practice or principles of a religion or belief,
  - (d) to enable persons of a religion or belief to receive any benefit, or to engage in any activity, within the framework of that religion or belief, or
  - (e) to improve relations, or maintain good relations, between persons of different religions or beliefs.
- (2) But this section does not apply to an organisation whose sole or main purpose is commercial.

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- (3) Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for an organisation to which this section applies or anyone acting on behalf of or under the auspices of an organisation to which this section applies—
- (a) to restrict membership of the organisation,
  - (b) to restrict participation in activities undertaken by the organisation or on its behalf or under its auspices,
  - (c) to restrict the provision of goods, facilities or services in the course of activities undertaken by the organisation or on its behalf or under its auspices, or
  - (d) to restrict the use or disposal of premises owned or controlled by the organisation.
- (4) Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for a minister—
- (a) to restrict participation in activities carried on in the performance of his functions in connection with or in respect of an organisation to which this section relates, or
  - (b) to restrict the provision of goods, facilities or services in the course of activities carried on in the performance of his functions in connection with or in respect of an organisation to which this section relates.
- (5) But subsections (3) and (4) permit a restriction only if imposed—
- (a) by reason of or on the grounds of the purpose of the organisation, or
  - (b) in order to avoid causing offence, on grounds of the religion or belief to which the organisation relates, to persons of that religion or belief.
- (6) In subsection (4) the reference to a minister is a reference to a minister of religion, or other person, who—
- (a) performs functions in connection with a religion or belief to which an organisation, to which this section applies, relates, and
  - (b) holds an office or appointment in, or is accredited, approved or recognised for purposes of, an organisation to which this section applies.

## 58 Charities relating to religion or belief **E+W+S**

- (1) Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for a person to provide benefits only to persons of a particular religion or belief, if—
- (a) he acts in pursuance of a charitable instrument, and
  - (b) the restriction of benefits to persons of that religion or belief is imposed by reason of or on the grounds of the provisions of the charitable instrument.
- (2) Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales or the holder of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to exercise a function in relation to a charity in a manner which appears to the Commissioners or to the holder to be expedient in the interests of the charity, having regard to the provisions of the charitable instrument.
- (3) In this section “charitable instrument”—
- (a) means an instrument establishing or governing a charity, and
  - (b) includes a charitable instrument made before the commencement of this section.

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**59 Faith schools, &c. E+W+S**

- (1) Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for an educational institution established or conducted for the purpose of providing education relating to, or within the framework of, a specified religion or belief—
- (a) to restrict the provision of goods, facilities or services, or
  - (b) to restrict the use or disposal of premises.
- (2) But subsection (1) permits a restriction only if imposed—
- (a) by reason of or on the grounds of the purpose of the institution, or
  - (b) in order to avoid causing offence, on grounds of the religion or belief to which the institution relates, to persons connected with the institution.
- (3) In this Part a reference to the provision of facilities or services shall not, in so far as it applies to an educational institution, include a reference to educational facilities or educational services provided to students of the institution.

**60 Membership requirement E+W+S**

- (1) Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for a charity to require members, or persons wishing to become members, to make a statement which asserts or implies membership or acceptance of a religion or belief.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall apply to the imposition of a requirement by a charity only if—
- (a) the charity, or an organisation of which the charity is part, first imposed a requirement of the kind specified in subsection (1) before 18th May 2005, and
  - (b) the charity or organisation has not ceased since that date to impose a requirement of that kind.

**61 Education, training and welfare E+W+S**

Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful to do anything by way of—

- (a) meeting special needs for education, training or welfare of persons of a religion or belief, or
- (b) providing ancillary benefits in connection with meeting the needs mentioned in paragraph (a).

**62 Care within family E+W+S**

Nothing in this Part shall make it unlawful for a person to take into his home, and treat in the same manner as a member of his family, a person who requires a special degree of care and attention (whether by reason of being a child or an elderly person or otherwise).

**63 National security E+W+S**

Nothing in this Part shall make unlawful anything which is done for, and justified by, the purpose of safeguarding national security.



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#### **64 Amendment of exceptions** **E+W+S**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order amend this Part so as to—
  - (a) create an exception to the prohibition under section 52(1), or
  - (b) vary an exception to a prohibition under this Part.
- (2) Before making an order under subsection (1) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.
- (3) An order under subsection (1)—
  - (a) may include transitional, incidental or consequential provision (including provision amending an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament)),
  - (b) may make provision generally or only for specified cases or circumstances,
  - (c) may make different provision for different cases or circumstances,
  - (d) shall be made by statutory instrument, and
  - (e) may not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

#### *Enforcement*

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

#### **65 Restriction of proceedings** **E+W+S**

- (1) Except as provided by this Act, no proceedings, whether criminal or civil, may be brought against a person on the grounds that an act is unlawful by virtue of this Part.
- (2) But subsection (1) does not prevent—
  - (a) an application for judicial review,
  - (b) proceedings under the Immigration Acts,
  - (c) proceedings under the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997 (c. 68), or
  - (d) in Scotland, the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Court of Session to entertain an application for reduction or suspension of an order or determination or otherwise to consider the validity of an order or determination, or to require reasons for an order or determination to be stated.

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

#### **66 Claim of unlawful action** **E+W+S**

- (1) A claim that a person has done anything that is unlawful by virtue of this Part may be brought in a county court (in England and Wales) or in the sheriff court (in Scotland) by way of proceedings in tort (or reparation) for breach of statutory duty.

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- (2) Proceedings in England and Wales alleging that any of the following bodies has acted unlawfully by virtue of section 49 or 51 may not be brought unless the claimant has given written notice to the Secretary of State; and those bodies are—
  - (a) a local education authority, and
  - (b) the responsible body of an educational establishment listed in the Table in section 49.
- (3) Proceedings in Scotland alleging that any of the following bodies has acted unlawfully by virtue of section 49 or 51 may not be brought unless the pursuer has given written notice to the Scottish Ministers; and those bodies are—
  - (a) an education authority, and
  - (b) the responsible body of an educational establishment listed in the Table in section 49.
- (4) In subsection (1) the reference to a claim that a person has done an unlawful act includes a reference to a claim that a person is to be treated by virtue of this Part as having done an unlawful act.
- (5) In proceedings under this section, if the claimant (or pursuer) proves facts from which the court could conclude, in the absence of a reasonable alternative explanation, that an act which is unlawful by virtue of this Part has been committed, the court shall assume that the act was unlawful unless the respondent (or defender) proves that it was not.

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

## 67 Immigration **E+W+S**

- (1) Proceedings may not be brought under section 66 alleging that a person has acted unlawfully by virtue of section 52 if the question of the lawfulness of the act could be raised (and has not been raised) in immigration proceedings (disregarding the possibility of proceedings brought out of time with permission).
- (2) If in immigration proceedings a court or tribunal has found that an act was unlawful by virtue of section 52, a court hearing proceedings under section 66 shall accept that finding.
- (3) In this section “immigration proceedings” means proceedings under or by virtue of—
  - (a) the Immigration Acts, or
  - (b) the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997 (c. 68).

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

## 68 Remedies **E+W+S**

- (1) This section applies to proceedings under section 66.

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- (2) A court may, in addition to any remedy available to it in proceedings for tort, grant any remedy that the High Court could grant in proceedings for judicial review.
- (3) A court may not award damages in proceedings in respect of an act that is unlawful by virtue of section 45(3) if the respondent proves that there was no intention to treat the claimant unfavourably on grounds of religion or belief.
- (4) A court may award damages by way of compensation for injury to feelings (whether or not other damages are also awarded).
- (5) In the application of this section to proceedings in Scotland—
  - (a) a reference to the High Court shall be taken as a reference to the Court of Session,
  - (b) a reference to tort shall be taken as a reference to reparation,
  - (c) a reference to the respondent shall be taken as a reference to the defender, and
  - (d) a reference to the claimant shall be taken as a reference to the pursuer.
- (6) This section is subject to section 52(5).

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

#### 69 Timing **E+W+S**

- (1) Proceedings under section 66 may be brought only—
  - (a) within the period of six months beginning with the date of the act (or last act) to which the proceedings relate, or
  - (b) with the permission of the court in which the proceedings are brought.
- (2) In relation to immigration proceedings within the meaning of section 67, the period specified in subsection (1)(a) above shall begin with the first date on which proceedings under section 66 may be brought.

#### 70 Information **E+W+S**

- (1) In this section—
  - (a) a reference to a claimant is a reference to a person who has brought proceedings under this Part,
  - (b) a reference to a potential claimant is a reference to a person who—
    - (i) thinks he may have been the subject of an act that is unlawful by virtue of this Part, and
    - (ii) wishes to consider whether to bring proceedings under this Part, and
  - (c) a person questioned by a potential claimant for the purpose of considering whether to bring proceedings is referred to as a potential respondent.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall by order prescribe—
  - (a) forms by which a claimant or potential claimant may question the respondent or a potential respondent about the reasons for an action or about any matter that is or may be relevant, and

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- (b) forms by which a respondent or potential respondent may reply (if he wishes).
- (3) A claimant's or potential claimant's questions, and a respondent or potential respondent's replies, (in each case whether or not put by a prescribed form) shall be admissible as evidence in proceedings in respect of the act to which the questions relate if (and only if) the questions are put—
  - (a) within the period of six months beginning with the date of the act (or last act) to which they relate, and
  - (b) in such manner as the Secretary of State may prescribe by order.
- (4) A court may draw an inference from—
  - (a) a failure to reply to a claimant's or potential claimant's questions (whether or not put by a prescribed form) within the period of eight weeks beginning with the date of receipt, or
  - (b) an evasive or equivocal reply to a claimant's or potential claimant's questions (whether or not put by a prescribed form).
- (5) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsection (3)(a) so as to substitute a new period for that specified.
- (6) In the application of this section to Scotland—
  - (a) a reference to a claimant or potential claimant shall be taken as a reference to a pursuer or potential pursuer, and
  - (b) a reference to a respondent or potential respondent shall be taken as a reference to a defender or potential defender.
- (7) An order under this section—
  - (a) shall be made by statutory instrument, and
  - (b) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (8) This section is subject to section 52(6).

## 71 National security E+W+S

- (1) Rules of court may make provision for enabling a county court or sheriff court in which a claim is brought under section 66, where the court considers it expedient in the interests of national security—
  - (a) to exclude from all or part of the proceedings—
    - (i) the claimant;
    - (ii) the claimant's representatives;
    - (iii) any assessors;
  - (b) to permit a claimant or representative who has been excluded to make a statement to the court before the commencement of the proceedings, or the part of the proceedings, from which he is excluded;
  - (c) to take steps to keep secret all or part of the reasons for the court's decision in the proceedings.
- (2) The Attorney General or, in Scotland, the Advocate General for Scotland, may appoint a person to represent the interests of a claimant in, or in any part of,

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proceedings from which the claimant or his representatives are excluded by virtue of subsection (1).

- (3) A person may be appointed under subsection (2) only—
- (a) in relation to proceedings in England and Wales, if he has a general qualification (within the meaning of section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41)), or
  - (b) in relation to proceedings in Scotland, if he is—
    - (i) an advocate, or
    - (ii) qualified to practice as a solicitor in Scotland.
- (4) A person appointed under subsection (2) shall not be responsible to the person whose interests he is appointed to represent.

VALID FROM 30/04/2007

## 72 Validity and revision of contracts **E+W+S**

- (1) A term of a contract is void where—
- (a) its inclusion renders the making of the contract unlawful by virtue of this Part,
  - (b) it is included in furtherance of an act which is unlawful by virtue of this Part, or
  - (c) it provides for the doing of an act which would be unlawful by virtue of this Part.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a term the inclusion of which constitutes, or is in furtherance of, or provides for, unlawful discrimination against a party to the contract; but the term shall be unenforceable against that party.
- (3) A term in a contract which purports to exclude or limit a provision of this Part is unenforceable by a person in whose favour the term would operate apart from this subsection.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply to a contract settling a claim under section 66.
- (5) On the application of a person interested in a contract to which subsection (1) applies, a county court or sheriff court may make an order for removing or modifying a term made unenforceable by that subsection; but an order shall not be made unless all persons affected—
- (a) have been given notice of the application (except where notice is dispensed with in accordance with rules of court), and
  - (b) have been afforded an opportunity to make representations to the court.
- (6) An order under subsection (5) may include provision in respect of a period before the making of the order.

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VALID FROM 30/04/2007

### General

#### **73 Aiding unlawful acts** E+W+S

- (1) It is unlawful knowingly to help another person (whether or not as his employee or agent) to do anything which is unlawful under this Part.
- (2) A person commits an offence if he knowingly or recklessly makes a false statement, in connection with assistance sought from another, that a proposed act is not unlawful under this Part.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (2) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

#### **74 Employers' and principals' liability** E+W+S

- (1) Anything done by a person in the course of his employment shall be treated for the purposes of this Part as done by the employer as well as by the person.
- (2) Anything done by a person as agent for another shall be treated for the purposes of this Part as done by the principal as well as by the agent.
- (3) It is immaterial for the purposes of this section whether an employer or principal knows about or approves of an act.
- (4) In proceedings under this Part against a person in respect of an act alleged to have been done by his employee it shall be a defence for the employer to provide that he took such steps as were reasonably practicable to prevent the employee—
  - (a) from doing the act, or
  - (b) from doing acts of that kind in the course of his employment.
- (5) Subsections (1) and (2) shall not apply to the commission of an offence under section 54.

#### **75 Police, &c.** E+W+S

- (1) This section applies to—
  - (a) a constable who is a member of a police force maintained under the Police Act 1996 (c. 16) or the Police (Scotland) Act 1967 (c. 77),
  - (b) a special constable appointed for a police area in accordance with either of those Acts, and
  - (c) a person appointed as a police cadet in accordance with either of those Acts.
- (2) A person to whom this section applies shall be treated for the purposes of this Part as the employee of his chief officer of police; and anything done by the person in the performance or purported performance of his functions shall be treated as done in the course of that employment.
- (3) There shall be paid out of the police fund—

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- (a) compensation, costs or expenses awarded against a chief officer of police in proceedings brought against him under this Part;
  - (b) costs or expenses incurred by a chief officer of police in proceedings brought against him under this Part so far as not recovered in the proceedings;
  - (c) sums required by a chief officer of police for the settlement of a claim made against him under this Part if the settlement is approved by the police authority.
- (4) A police authority may pay out of the police fund—
- (a) damages or costs awarded in proceedings under this Part against a person under the direction and control of the chief officer of police;
  - (b) costs incurred and not recovered by such a person in such proceedings;
  - (c) sums required in connection with the settlement of a claim that has or might have given rise to such proceedings.
- (5) In section 56(4) of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (c. 15) (application of discrimination legislation to seconded staff) after paragraph (f) insert—
- “; and
- (g) section 74 of the Equality Act 2006.”

## **76 Indirect provision of benefit, &c. E+W+S**

A reference in this Part to providing a service, facility or benefit of any kind includes a reference to facilitating access to the service, facility or benefit.

## **77 Employment Equality Regulations E+W+S**

- (1) For regulation 2(1) of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1660) (definition of “religion or belief”) substitute—
- “(1) In these Regulations—
- (a) “religion” means any religion,
  - (b) “belief” means any religious or philosophical belief,
  - (c) a reference to religion includes a reference to lack of religion, and
  - (d) a reference to belief includes a reference to lack of belief.”
- (2) For regulation 3(1)(a) of the Regulations substitute—
- “(a) on the grounds of the religion or belief of B or of any other person except A (whether or not it is also A's religion or belief) A treats B less favourably than he treats or would treat other persons;”.
- (3) Omit regulation 3(2) of the Regulations.

## **78 Crown application E+W+S**

- (1) Section 52 binds the Crown.
- (2) The remainder of this Part applies to an act done on behalf of the Crown as it applies to an act done by a private person.

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- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) an act is done on behalf of the Crown if (and only if) done—
- (a) by or on behalf of a Minister of the Crown,
  - (b) by or on behalf of the Scottish Ministers,
  - (c) by a government department,
  - (d) by a body established by an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament) acting on behalf of the Crown,
  - (e) by or on behalf of the holder of an office established by an enactment (including an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament) acting on behalf of the Crown, or
  - (f) by or on behalf of an office-holder in the Scottish Administration (within the meaning of section 126(7) of the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46)).
- (4) The provisions of Parts II to IV of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 shall apply to proceedings against the Crown under this Part as they apply to proceedings in England and Wales which by virtue of section 23 of that Act are treated for the purposes of Part II of that Act as civil proceedings by or against the Crown; but section 20 of that Act (removal of proceedings from county court to High Court) shall not apply to proceedings under this Part.
- (5) The provisions of Part V of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 shall apply to proceedings against the Crown under this Part as they apply to proceedings in Scotland which by virtue of the said Part are treated as civil proceedings by or against the Crown; but the proviso to section 44 of that Act (removal of proceedings from the sheriff court to the Court of Session) shall not apply to proceedings under this Part.

## 79 Interpretation **E+W+S**

- (1) In this Part “charity”—
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, has the meaning given by the Charities Act 2006, and
  - (b) in relation to Scotland, means a body entered in the Scottish Charity Register.
- (2) In this Part—
- (a) a reference to action includes a reference to deliberate omission, and
  - (b) a reference to refusal includes a reference to deliberate omission.

## 80 Territorial application **E+W+S**

- (1) This Part applies in relation to anything done in Great Britain.
- (2) This Part also applies to the provision of—
- (a) facilities for travel on a British ship, a British hovercraft or a British aircraft, and
  - (b) benefits, facilities or services provided on a British ship, a British hovercraft or a British aircraft.



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- (3) Section 52, in so far as it relates to granting entry clearance (within the meaning of the Immigration Acts), applies to anything done whether inside or outside the United Kingdom.
- (4) In this section—
  - “British aircraft” means an aircraft registered in Great Britain,
  - “British hovercraft” means a hovercraft registered in Great Britain, and
  - “British ship” means a ship which is—
    - (a) registered in Great Britain, or
    - (b) owned by or used for purposes of the Crown.
- (5) This section shall not make it unlawful to do anything in or over a country other than the United Kingdom, or in or over the territorial waters of a country other than the United Kingdom, for the purpose of complying with a law of the country.

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

### PART 3 **E+W+S**

#### DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

#### 81 **Regulations** **N.I.**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about discrimination or harassment on grounds of sexual orientation.
- (2) In subsection (1) “sexual orientation” has the meaning given by section 35.
- (3) The regulations may, in particular—
  - (a) make provision of a kind similar to Part 2 of this Act;
  - (b) define discrimination;
  - (c) define harassment;
  - (d) make provision for enforcement (which may, in particular, include provision—
    - (i) creating a criminal offence of a kind similar to, and with the same maximum penalties as, an offence created by an enactment relating to discrimination or equality;
    - (ii) about validity and revision of contracts;
    - (iii) about discriminatory advertisements;
    - (iv) about instructing or causing discrimination or harassment);
  - (e) provide for exceptions (whether or not of a kind similar to those provided for by Part 2 of this Act or any other enactment relating to discrimination or equality);
  - (f) make provision which applies generally or only in specified cases or circumstances;
  - (g) make different provision for different cases or circumstances;

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- (h) include incidental or consequential provision (which may include provision amending an enactment);
  - (i) include transitional provision.
- (4) The regulations—
- (a) shall be made by statutory instrument, and
  - (b) may not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) In subsection (3)(h) “enactment” includes an enactment in or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

## 82 Regulations for Northern Ireland **N.I.**

- (1) The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister may by regulations make provision about discrimination or harassment on grounds of sexual orientation.
- (2) In subsection (1) “sexual orientation” has the same meaning as in the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SR 2003 No. 497).
- (3) The regulations may, in particular—
- (a) make provision of a kind similar to Part 3 of the Race Relations Order (discrimination on grounds of race, etc. other than in employment field) and Part 4 of that Order so far as it applies for the purposes of Part 3;
  - (b) define discrimination;
  - (c) define harassment;
  - (d) make provision for enforcement (which may, in particular, include provision—
    - (i) creating a criminal offence of a kind similar to, and with the same maximum penalties as, an offence created by the Race Relations Order;
    - (ii) about validity and revision of contracts;
    - (iii) about discriminatory advertisements;
    - (iv) about instructing or causing discrimination or harassment);
  - (e) provide for exceptions (whether or not of a kind similar to those provided for by Part 6 of the Race Relations Order or any other enactment relating to discrimination);
  - (f) confer powers or impose duties or restrictions on the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland of a kind similar to those conferred or imposed on the Commission by Part 7 of the Race Relations Order;
  - (g) make provision which applies generally or only in specified cases or circumstances;
  - (h) make different provision for different cases or circumstances;
  - (i) include incidental or consequential provision (which may include provision amending an enactment);
  - (j) include transitional provision.
- (4) The power to make regulations under this section is exercisable by statutory rule for the purposes of the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (SI 1979/ 1573 (NI 12)).

**Status:** Point in time view as at 16/02/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** Equality Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(5) Regulations may not be made under this section unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(6) In this section—

“the Race Relations Order” means the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (SI 1997/869 (N.I. 6));

“enactment” includes an enactment contained in or made under Northern Ireland legislation.

## PART 4 **E+W+S**

### PUBLIC FUNCTIONS

#### *Sex discrimination*

VALID FROM 06/04/2007

## 83 **Prohibition of discrimination** **E+W+S**

(1) In the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) the following shall be inserted at the beginning of Part III (discrimination in non-employment fields)—

### “21A **Public authorities**

(1) It is unlawful for a public authority exercising a function to do any act which constitutes—

- (a) discrimination, or
- (b) harassment within the meaning of section 4A(1) and (2), (5) and (6).

(2) In subsection (1)—

- (a) “public authority” includes any person who has functions of a public nature (subject to subsections (3) and (4)), and
- (b) “function” means function of a public nature.

(3) The prohibition in subsection (1) shall not apply to—

- (a) the House of Commons,
- (b) the House of Lords,
- (c) the Security Service,
- (d) the Secret Intelligence Service,
- (e) the Government Communications Headquarters, or
- (f) a part of the armed forces of the Crown which is, in accordance with a requirement of the Secretary of State, assisting the Government Communications Headquarters.

(4) The prohibition in subsection (1) shall not apply to the functions and actions listed in the Table of Exceptions in subsection (9) (but nothing in that Table permits anything which is prohibited by virtue of any Community law relating to discrimination).

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- (5) The Secretary of State may by order amend the Table of Exceptions.
- (6) In an action under section 66 in respect of a contravention of this section—
- (a) the court shall not grant an injunction or interdict unless satisfied that it will not prejudice criminal proceedings or a criminal investigation, and
  - (b) the court shall grant any application to stay or sist the section 66 proceedings on the grounds of prejudice to criminal proceedings or to a criminal investigation, unless satisfied that the proceedings or investigation will not be prejudiced.
- (7) Section 74(2)(b) shall not apply in relation to a respondent's reply, or a failure to reply, to a question in connection with an alleged contravention of this section—
- (a) if the respondent reasonably asserts that to have replied differently or at all might have prejudiced criminal proceedings or a criminal investigation,
  - (b) if the respondent reasonably asserts that to have replied differently or at all would have revealed the reason for not instituting or not continuing criminal proceedings,
  - (c) where the reply is of a kind specified for the purposes of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State,
  - (d) where the reply is given in circumstances specified for the purposes of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State, or
  - (e) where the failure occurs in circumstances specified for the purposes of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State.
- (8) In this section “criminal investigation” means—
- (a) an investigation into the commission of an alleged offence, and
  - (b) a decision whether to institute criminal proceedings.
- (9) The following is the Table of Exceptions referred to in subsection (4).

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*Legislation*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Preparing, making, or considering—   |
|   | (a) an Act of Parliament,  |
|   | (b) a Bill for an Act of Parliament,   |
|   | (c) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,   |
|   | or   |
|   | (d) a Bill for an Act of the Scottish Parliament.  |
| 2 | Preparing, making, confirming, approving, or considering legislation made or to be made— |
|   | (a) by a Minister of the Crown,  |
|   | (b) by Order in Council,   |
|   | (c) by the Scottish Ministers or any member of the Scottish Executive,                   |
|   | (d) by the National Assembly for Wales, or   |

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	(e) by or by virtue of a Measure of the General Synod of the Church of England.
3	Action which is necessary, or in so far as it is necessary, for the purpose of complying with— (a) an Act of Parliament, (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament, or (c) legislation of a kind described in Item 2.
	<i>The courts, &amp;c.</i>
4	A judicial function (whether in connection with a court or a tribunal).
5	Anything done on behalf of or on the instructions of a person exercising a judicial function (whether in connection with a court or a tribunal).
6	A decision not to institute or continue criminal proceedings.
7	Anything done for the purpose of reaching, or in pursuance of, a decision not to institute or continue criminal proceedings.
	<i>Separate services, &amp;c.</i>
8	The provision of a service for one sex only where only persons of that sex require the service.
9	The provision of separate services for each sex where a joint service would or might be less effective.
10	The provision of a service for one sex only where— (a) the service is also provided jointly for both sexes, and (b) if the service were provided only jointly it would or might be insufficiently effective.
11	The provision of a service for one sex only where— (a) if the service were provided for both sexes jointly it would or might be less effective, and (b) the extent to which the service is required by the other sex makes it not reasonably practicable to

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	provide separate services for that sex.
12	<p>The provision of separate services for each sex in different ways or to different extents where—</p> <p>(a) if the service were provided for both sexes jointly it would or might be less effective, and</p> <p>(b) the extent to which the service is required by one sex makes it not reasonably practicable to provide the service for that sex in the same way or to the same extent as for the other sex.</p>
13	<p>Action taken for the purpose of assisting one sex to overcome—</p> <p>(a) a disadvantage (as compared with the other sex), or</p> <p>(b) the effects of discrimination.</p> <p><i>Miscellaneous</i></p>
14	The exercise of a function of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales or the holder of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in relation to an instrument in relation to which section 43 applies.
15	Action which is unlawful by virtue of another provision of this Act.
16	Action which would be unlawful by virtue of another provision of this Act but for an express exception.”
<hr/> <p>(2) In section 17(5) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (police) for “by virtue of subsection (1)” substitute “by virtue of subsection (1) or (1A)”.</p> <p>(3) In section 81 of that Act (orders)—</p> <p>(a) in subsection (2) after “sections” insert “ 21A, ”, and</p> <p>(b) after subsection (2) insert—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“(2A) An order under section 21A(5) may not be made unless—</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(a) the Secretary of State has consulted the Commission, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(b) a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.”</p> <p>(4) In section 85 of that Act (Crown application) after subsection (3) insert—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“(3A) Section 21A binds the Crown.”</p>	

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*Changes to legislation:* Equality Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

## 84 General duty to promote equality, &c. **E+W+S**

- (1) In the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 the following shall be inserted at the beginning of Part VIII (supplemental)—

### “76A Public authorities: general statutory duty

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions have due regard to the need—
- (a) to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, and
  - (b) to promote equality of opportunity between men and women.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- (a) “public authority” includes any person who has functions of a public nature (subject to subsections (3) and (4)),
  - (b) “functions” means functions of a public nature, and
  - (c) the reference to unlawful discrimination shall be treated as including a reference to contravention of terms of contracts having effect in accordance with an equality clause within the meaning of section 1 of the Equal Pay Act 1970 (c. 41).
- (3) The duty in subsection (1) shall not apply to—
- (a) the House of Commons,
  - (b) the House of Lords,
  - (c) the Scottish Parliament,
  - (d) the General Synod of the Church of England,
  - (e) the Security Service,
  - (f) the Secret Intelligence Service,
  - (g) the Government Communications Headquarters,
  - (h) a part of the armed forces of the Crown which is, in accordance with a requirement of the Secretary of State, assisting the Government Communications Headquarters, or
  - (i) a person specified for the purpose of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State (and a person may be specified generally or only in respect of specified functions).
- (4) The duty in subsection (1) shall not apply to the exercise of—
- (a) a function in connection with proceedings in the House of Commons or the House of Lords,
  - (b) a function in connection with proceedings in the Scottish Parliament (other than a function of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body),
  - (c) a judicial function (whether in connection with a court or a tribunal),
  - (d) a function exercised on behalf of or on the instructions of a person exercising a judicial function (whether in connection with a court or a tribunal), or

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- (e) a function specified for the purpose of this paragraph by order of the Secretary of State.
- (5) Subsection (1)(b) is without prejudice to the effect of any exception to or limitation of the law about sex discrimination.
- (6) A failure in respect of performance of the duty under subsection (1) does not confer a cause of action at private law.”
- (2) In section 81 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (orders) after subsection (2A) (inserted by section 83 above) insert—
- “(2B) An order under section 76A(3)(i) or (4)(e) may not be made unless the Secretary of State has consulted the Commission.”
- (3) In section 85 of that Act (Crown application) after subsection (3A) (inserted by section 83 above) insert—
- “(3B) Section 76A binds the Crown.”

#### Commencement Information

- I4** S. 84 wholly in force at 6.4.2007; s. 84 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 93; s. 84 in force for certain purposes at 18.4.2006 and 6.4.2007 so far as not already in force by S.I. 2006/1082, arts. 2, 4

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

#### 85 Specific duties **E+W+S**

- (1) In the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) the following shall be inserted after section 76A (inserted by section 84 above)—

##### “76B “Specific duties

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order impose on a person to whom the duty in section 76A(1) applies, or in so far as that duty applies to a person, a duty which the Secretary of State thinks will ensure better performance of the duty under section 76A(1).
- (2) Before making an order under subsection (1) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission.
- (3) The Secretary of State—
- (a) must consult the National Assembly for Wales before making an order under subsection (1) in respect of a person exercising functions in relation to Wales, and
  - (b) may not, without the consent of the National Assembly for Wales, make an order under subsection (1) in respect of a person all of whose functions are public functions in relation to Wales.
- (4) A failure in respect of performance of a duty imposed under subsection (1) does not confer a cause of action at private law.”



**Status:** Point in time view as at 16/02/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** Equality Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

### “76C Specific duties: Scotland

- (1) Section 76B(1) shall not apply in relation to a person who is a relevant Scottish authority or a cross-border authority.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by order impose on a cross-border authority to whom the duty under section 76A(1) applies, or in so far as that duty applies to the cross-border authority, a duty which the Secretary of State thinks will ensure better performance of the duty under section 76A(1), to the extent that the cross-border authority's functions are not Scottish functions.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may by order impose on a relevant Scottish authority to whom the duty under section 76A(1) applies, or in so far as that duty applies to the relevant Scottish authority, a duty which the Scottish Ministers think will ensure better performance of the duty under section 76A(1).
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by order impose on a cross-border authority to whom the duty under section 76A(1) applies, or in so far as that duty applies to the cross-border authority, a duty which the Scottish Ministers think will ensure better performance of the duty under section 76A(1), to the extent that the cross-border authority's functions are Scottish functions.
- (5) Before making an order under any of subsections (2) to (4) the person making the order shall consult the Commission.
- (6) Before making an order under subsection (2) the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers.
- (7) Before making an order under subsection (4) the Scottish Ministers shall consult the Secretary of State.
- (8) A failure in respect of performance of a duty imposed under this section does not confer a cause of action at private law.
- (9) In this section—
  - “relevant Scottish authority” means—
    - (a) a member of the Scottish Executive or a junior Scottish Minister,
    - (b) the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland, the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland or the Keeper of the Records of Scotland,
    - (c) an office of a description specified in an Order in Council under section 126(8)(b) of the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46) (other non-ministerial offices in the Scottish Administration), or
    - (d) a public body, public office or holder of a public office—
      - (i) which is not a cross-border authority or the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body,
      - (ii) whose functions are exercisable only in or as regards Scotland, and
      - (iii) some at least of whose functions do not relate to reserved matters (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998),

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“cross-border authority” means a cross-border public authority within the meaning given by section 88(5) of the Scotland Act 1998, and

“Scottish functions” means functions which are exercisable in or as regards Scotland and which do not relate to reserved matters (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998).”

**“76D Specific duties: enforcement**

- (1) This section applies where the Commission thinks that a person has failed to comply with a duty imposed under section 76B or 76C.
  - (2) The Commission may give the person a notice requiring him—
    - (a) to comply with the duty, and
    - (b) to give the Commission, within the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which he receives the notice, written information of steps taken for the purpose of complying with the duty.
  - (3) A notice under this section may require a person to give the Commission information required by the Commission for the purposes of assessing compliance with the duty; in which case the notice shall specify—
    - (a) the period within which the information is to be given (which shall begin with the date on which the notice is received and shall not exceed three months), and
    - (b) the manner and form in which the information is to be given.
  - (4) A person who receives a notice under this section shall comply with it.
  - (5) But a notice under this section shall not oblige a person to give information that he could not be compelled to give in proceedings before the High Court or the Court of Session.
  - (6) If the Commission thinks that a person, to whom a notice under this section has been given, has failed to comply with a requirement of the notice, the Commission may apply to a county court (in England and Wales) or to the sheriff (in Scotland) for an order requiring the person to comply.””
- (2) In section 81 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) (orders) after subsection (2B) (inserted by section 84 above) insert—
- “(2C) An order under section 76C(3) or (4) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.”

**Commencement Information**

- I5** [S. 85](#) wholly in force at 6.4.2007; [s. 85](#) not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 93](#); [s. 85](#) in force for certain purposes at 18.4.2006 and 6.4.2007 so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2006/1082](#), [arts. 2, 4](#)

**86 Codes of practice E+W+S**

In the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 the following shall be inserted after section 76D (inserted by section 85 above)—

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### “76E Codes of practice

- (1) The Commission may issue a code of practice about the performance of—
  - (a) the duty under section 76A(1), or
  - (b) a duty imposed under section 76B or 76C.
- (2) Section 56A(2) to (11) shall apply to a code under this section as to a code under that section (for which purpose the reference in section 56A(10) to specified proceedings before an employment tribunal shall be treated as a reference to criminal or civil proceedings before any court or tribunal).
- (3) The Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers and the National Assembly for Wales before—
  - (a) approving a draft under section 56A(4)(a) as applied by subsection (2) above, or
  - (b) making an order under section 56A(7) as applied by subsection (2) above.”

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

### 87 National security **E+W+S**

In the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 the following shall be inserted after section 66A (burden of proof in county and sheriff courts)—

#### “66B National security

- (1) Rules of court may make provision for enabling a county court or sheriff court in which a claim is brought under section 66(1), where the court considers it expedient in the interests of national security—
  - (a) to exclude from all or part of the proceedings—
    - (i) the claimant;
    - (ii) the claimant's representatives;
    - (iii) any assessors;
  - (b) to permit a claimant or representative who has been excluded to make a statement to the court before the commencement of the proceedings, or the part of the proceedings, from which he is excluded;
  - (c) to take steps to keep secret all or part of the reasons for the court's decision in the proceedings.
- (2) The Attorney General or, in Scotland, the Advocate General for Scotland, may appoint a person to represent the interests of a claimant in, or in any part of, proceedings from which the claimant or his representatives are excluded by virtue of subsection (1).
- (3) A person may be appointed under subsection (2) only—
  - (a) in relation to proceedings in England and Wales, if he has a general qualification (within the meaning of section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41)), or

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- (b) in relation to proceedings in Scotland, if he is—
- (i) an advocate, or
  - (ii) qualified to practice as a solicitor in Scotland.

(4) A person appointed under subsection (2) shall not be responsible to the person whose interests he is appointed to represent.”

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

### *Disability discrimination*

#### 88 **General duty: exceptions** E+W+S

In section 49C(4) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (public authorities: general duty: exceptions) for “section 49A(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d)” substitute “one or more specified paragraphs of section 49A(1)”.

#### 89 **National security** E+W+S

In the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 the following shall be inserted after section 59 (statutory authority, national security, &c.)—

##### “59A National security

- (1) Rules of court may make provision for enabling a county court or sheriff court in which a claim is brought in respect of alleged discrimination contrary to this Act (including anything treated by virtue of this Act as amounting to discrimination contrary to this Act), where the court considers it expedient in the interests of national security—
  - (a) to exclude from all or part of the proceedings—
    - (i) the claimant;
    - (ii) the claimant's representatives;
    - (iii) any assessors;
  - (b) to permit a claimant or representative who has been excluded to make a statement to the court before the commencement of the proceedings, or the part of the proceedings, from which he is excluded;
  - (c) to take steps to keep secret all or part of the reasons for the court's decision in the proceedings.
- (2) The Attorney General or, in Scotland, the Advocate General for Scotland, may appoint a person to represent the interests of a claimant in, or in any part of, proceedings from which the claimant or his representatives are excluded by virtue of subsection (1).
- (3) A person may be appointed under subsection (2) only—
  - (a) in relation to proceedings in England and Wales, if he has a general qualification (within the meaning of section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41)), or

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- (b) in relation to proceedings in Scotland, if he is—
- (i) an advocate, or
  - (ii) qualified to practice as a solicitor in Scotland.

(4) A person appointed under subsection (2) shall not be responsible to the person whose interests he is appointed to represent.”

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

*Race discrimination*

**90 National security** **E+W+S**

In section 67A of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) (national security)—

- (a) in subsection (2), for “the claimant and his representatives” substitute “the claimant or his representatives”, and
- (b) in subsection (3)(b), for sub-paragraph (ii) substitute—  
“(ii) qualified to practice as a solicitor in Scotland.”

**PART 5** **E+W+S**

GENERAL

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

**91 Repeals** **E+W+S**

The enactments listed in Schedule 4 are hereby repealed to the extent specified.

VALID FROM 18/04/2006

**92 Crown application** **E+W+S**

This Act applies (except as is otherwise expressly provided) to—

- (a) Ministers of the Crown,
- (b) government departments,
- (c) office-holders in the Scottish Administration (within the meaning of section 126(7) of the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46)), and
- (d) other agents of the Crown.

**93 Commencement** **E+W+S**

(1) The preceding provisions of this Act, except for sections 41, 42 and 86, shall come into force in accordance with provision made by the Secretary of State by order.

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- (2) An order under subsection (1)—
- (a) shall be made by statutory instrument,
  - (b) may make provision generally or only for a specified purpose,
  - (c) may make different provision for different purposes, and
  - (d) may include transitional provisions and savings.

#### Subordinate Legislation Made

**P1** S. 93 power partly exercised; 18.4.2006, 4.12.2006 and 6.4.2007 appointed for specified provisions and purposes by {S.I. 2006/1082}, arts. 2, 3, 4; 30.4.2007 appointed for specified provisions by {S.I. 2007/1092}, art. 2; 1.10.2007 appointed for specified provisions by {2007/2603}, art. 2 (with art. 3)

#### 94 Extent **E+W+S**

- (1) This Act extends only to—
- (a) England and Wales, and
  - (b) Scotland.
- (2) But—
- (a) section 82 extends only to Northern Ireland, and
  - (b) except as provided by subsection (3), an amendment of an enactment by this Act shall have the same extent as the enactment amended (or as the relevant part of the enactment amended).
- (3) Paragraphs 36 to 38 and 41 to 56 of Schedule 3 (which amend the Estate Agents Act 1979 (c. 38) and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50)), together with corresponding entries in Schedule 4, shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

#### 95 Short title **E+W+S**

This Act may be cited as the Equality Act 2006.

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VALID FROM 18/04/2006

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1 **E+W+S**

Section 2

THE COMMISSION: CONSTITUTION, &c.

.....

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

### SCHEDULE 2 **E+W+S**

Sections 16, 20 and 31

INQUIRIES, INVESTIGATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

.....

### SCHEDULE 3 **E+W+S**

Section 40

AMENDMENTS CONSEQUENTIAL ON PART 1

.....

VALID FROM 01/10/2007

### SCHEDULE 4 **E+W+S**

Section 91

REPEALS

.....

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 16/02/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:**

Equality Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.